

## MILITARY POSTS—COUNCIL BLUFFS TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 465.]

MAY 27, 1842.

Mr. PENDLETON, of Ohio, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

### REPORT :

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the establishment of a chain of military posts from Council Bluffs to the Pacific ocean, submits the following report :*

The Secretary of War, in his report accompanying the President's message, speaking of the "territory which extends from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico," has the following remark : "It is in immediate contact with numerous wild and warlike Indians, who are capable of bringing into the field a number of warriors estimated at from twenty to thirty thousand. From the intercourse which subsists between them and the traders, and emissaries of foreign nations, they may be rendered as formidable as any description of force that could be brought against us. To secure a proper influence over them in peace, and to counteract and control their dispositions in war, to secure our own territory, and to protect our traders, it is indispensable that a chain of posts should be established, extending from the Council Bluffs to the mouth of the Columbia, so as to command the avenues by which the Indians pass from the north to the south, and at the same time to maintain a communication with the territories belonging to us on the Pacific." In allusion to the same subject, the President, in his message, says : "I recommend particularly to your consideration that portion of the Secretary's report which proposes the establishment of a chain of military posts from Council Bluffs to some point on the Pacific ocean, within our limits. The benefit thereby destined to accrue to our citizens engaged in the fur trade over that wilderness region, added to the importance of cultivating friendly relations with savage tribes inhabiting it, and at the same time of giving protection to our frontier settlements, and of establishing the means of safe intercourse between the American settlements at the mouth of the Columbia river and those on this side of the Rocky mountains, would seem to suggest the importance of carrying into effect the recommendations upon this head, with as little delay as may be practicable."

Thus invoked by these high authorities, whose especial and responsible duty it is carefully to have weighed all the circumstances which may justify this recommendation, and all the consequences to which it may lead, the Committee on Military Affairs has given to this subject the anxious consideration its importance demands.

Mr. Monroe, in his last annual message, referring to this subject, uses the following language :

"In looking to the interests which the United States have on the Pacific ocean, and on the western coast of this continent, the propriety of establishing a military post at the mouth of the Columbia river, or at some other point in that quarter, within our acknowledged limits, is submitted to the consideration of Congress. Our commerce and fishing on that sea and along the coast have much increased and are increasing. It is thought that a military post, to which our ships of war might resort, would afford protection to every interest, and have a tendency to conciliate the tribes of the Northwest, with whom our trade is extensive. It is thought, also, that, by the establishment of such a post, the intercourse between our Western States and Territories and the Pacific, and our trade with the tribes residing in the interior, on each side of the Rocky mountains, would be essentially promoted. To carry this object into effect, the appropriation of an adequate sum to authorize the employment of a frigate, with an officer of the corps of engineers, to explore the mouth of the Columbia river and the coast contiguous thereto, to enable the Executive to make such establishment at the most suitable point, is recommended to Congress."

Mr. Adams, in his first message, in 1825, referring to this recommendation of Mr. Monroe, says :

"The interior of our own territories has yet been very imperfectly explored. Our coasts, along many degrees of latitude upon the shores of the Pacific ocean, though much frequented by our spirited commercial navigators, have been barely visited by our public ships. The river of the west, first fully discovered and navigated by a countryman of our own, still bears the name of the ship in which he ascended its waters, and claims the protection of our armed national flag at its mouth. With the establishment of a military post there, or at some other point of that coast, recommended by my predecessor, and already matured in the deliberations of the last Congress, I would suggest the expediency of connecting the equipment of a public ship for the exploration of the whole Northwest coast of this continent."

The attention of the committee has been in the first place directed to the title of the United States to the territory claimed by them on the Pacific ocean, and which is contested by Great Britain.

Russia, Great Britain, the United States, and Mexico, and in the order in which they are here named, from north to south, claim the possession of the whole western coast of North America. By the Florida treaty, concluded between the King of Spain and the United States on the 22d February, 1819, the forty-second degree of north latitude, from the source of the river Arkansas to the South sea, is established as the boundary between the two countries in that quarter; and His Catholic Majesty ceded to the United States all his rights, claims, and pretensions, to any territory north of said line; and, for himself, his heirs and successors, renounced all claim to the said territories forever. At the time of the ratification of this treaty, Mexico constituted a part of the Spanish monarchy, and, as such, was bound by its stipulations. Mexico, having established her independence of the Crown of Spain, to remove all doubts upon this subject, made a treaty of limits with the United States on the 12th January, 1828, by which the said forty-second degree of north latitude designated by the Florida treaty was recognised and confirmed as the boundary line be-



tween "the respective bordering territories of the United States of North America and of the United Mexican States." By these two treaties with Spain and Mexico the southern boundary of the United States is permanently established, and there is no difficulty or dispute in that quarter.

By the third article of the convention between the United States and Russia, signed at St. Petersburg in April, 1824, it is "agreed that hereafter there shall not be formed by the citizens of the United States, or under the authority of said States, any establishment upon the northwest coast of America, nor in any of the islands adjacent, *to the north of fifty-four degrees forty minutes of north latitude*; and that, in the same manner, there shall be none formed by Russian subjects, or under the authority of Russia, *south of the same parallel*. In the convention between Great Britain and Russia, signed at St. Petersburg in February, 1825, the intersection of the same parallel of fifty-four degrees forty minutes of north latitude, and the southernmost point of Prince of Wales' Island, is established as the commencement of the line of demarcation between their possessions "upon the coast of the continent and the islands of America to the northwest."

By these several treaties with Spain, Mexico, and Russia, the United States have limited their claim on the Pacific ocean to twelve degrees and forty minutes of latitude; that is, to the space intervening between forty-two and fifty-four degrees and forty minutes of north latitude. Great Britain asserts her title to the whole or a large part of this territory. This title the committee propose very briefly to examine, fully convinced that it cannot be sustained.

By the second article of the convention of the 20th day of October, 1818, between Great Britain and the United States, it is agreed that the 49th parallel of north latitude shall be the line of demarcation of their respective territories, from the northwestern point of the Lake-of-the-Woods to the Stony mountains. In 1824 and 1826, the United States proposed to Great Britain to adopt this same 49th parallel of latitude as the line between their respective territories, from the Rocky mountains west to the Pacific ocean. To this proposal the British ministry refused to accede, and in their turn proposed "that the boundary between the territories of Great Britain and those of the United States west of the Rocky mountains should be a line drawn from those mountains westward, along the forty-ninth parallel, to the nearest headwaters of the Columbia, and thence down the middle of the stream to its termination in the Pacific—the British possessing the country north and west of such line, and the Americans that on the other side." This proposal the United States rejected, on the ground that it gave Great Britain territory south of the forty-ninth degree of latitude. The negotiation having thus failed, in 1827 Mr. Gallatin, the American minister, was directed to give notice that the "American Government did not hold itself bound hereafter, in consequence of any proposal which it had made for a line of separation between the territories of the two nations beyond the Rocky mountains, but would consider itself at liberty to contend for the full extent of the claims of the United States." All efforts to settle by negotiation the conflicting claims of the two nations to the territory in question having failed, each is left to assert its right in such manner as its own honor and interest shall dictate.

The committee submits a brief abstract of the title of the United States, referring, for a more full and general view of it, to the several reports heretofore made to both Houses of Congress, to the correspondence with Great

Britain, and an interesting Memoir prepared in 1840 by Mr. Robert Greenhow, under the direction of the Hon. John Forsyth, then Secretary of State.\*

The United States claim the territory in question in virtue of their own original discovery and possession, and as successors of France and Spain under the Louisiana and Florida treaties. The committee is therefore led to the investigation of the titles thus acquired; and, first,

#### OF THE FRENCH TITLE.

The treaty of Utrecht was concluded in 1713. By the tenth article it was agreed, between Great Britain and France, to determine within one year, by commissioners, the limits between the Hudson's bay and the places appertaining to the French. The same commissioners were also authorized to settle, in like manner, the boundaries between the other British and French colonies in those parts. Commissioners were accordingly appointed by the two Powers, and there is strong reason to believe they actually established the boundaries according to the terms of the treaty, although no formal record of the fact now exists. The evidence that the boundaries were thus established, is, first, the fact of the appointment of the commissioners for that express purpose; and that "two distinct lines may be found traced on the different maps published in the last century, each purporting to be the limit between the Hudson's bay territories on the north, and the French possessions on the south, fixed by commissioners according to the treaty of Utrecht." One of these lines "is drawn irregularly from the Atlantic to a point in the 49th parallel of latitude, south of the southernmost part of Hudson's bay, and thence westward along that parallel to Red river, and, in some maps, still further west. This line is generally considered in the United States, and has been assumed by their Government, as the true boundary settled by the commissioners agreeably to the treaty above mentioned." Thus we find Messrs. Monroe and Pinckney, at Madrid, in 1805, writing to the Spanish minister as follows: "In conformity with the tenth article of the first-mentioned treaty (treaty of Utrecht,) the boundary between Canada and Louisiana on the one side, and the Hudson's Bay and Northwestern Companies on the other, was established by commissioners by a line to commence at a cape or promontory on the ocean in 58 degrees 31 minutes north latitude; to run thence southwestwardly to latitude 49 degrees north from the equator, and along that line indefinitely westward." These extracts are taken from the Memoir of Mr. Greenhow, who it is proper to add considers the opinion that these boundary lines were actually established by the commissioners "at variance with the most accredited authorities." In this opinion the committee does not concur; so far from doing so, it is thought the presumption that the 49th

\* The first report upon "the expediency of occupying the Columbia river" was made by Mr. Floyd, of Virginia, to the House of Representatives, January 25, 1821, accompanied by a bill for that purpose. (House Doc. 1820-'21, No. 45.) The second report came from a select committee of which Mr. Baylies, of Massachusetts, was chairman, to which had been referred the subject of establishing a military post at the mouth of the Columbia river, &c., January 16, 1826, (Ho. Doc., 1825-'26, vol. 1, No. 35;) and a supplemental report from the same committee, May 15, 1826. (Ho. Doc., vol. 2, No. 213.) The third report was made by Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, in relation to the territory of the United States beyond the Rocky mountains, January 4, 1839; and a supplemental report, February 16, 1839 (Ho. Doc., vol. 1, No. 101.) The fourth report was made to the Senate, by Mr. Linn, of Missouri, from the select committee to which was referred the bill to authorize the President to occupy the Oregon Territory, June 6, 1838. (Senate Doc. No. 470.)

The Memoir of Mr. Greenhow was printed by order of the Senate, and is to be found in Senate Doc. 1839-'40, vol. 4, No. 174.

parallel was adopted by the commissioners under the treaty of Utrecht is strengthened by the line of demarcation subsequently agreed on by the treaty of Versailles, in 1763, between France and Great Britain, and also by the treaty of peace of 1783, between the United States and Great Britain. By the former, the "confines between the British and French possessions were irrevocably fixed by a line drawn along the middle of the Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville," &c. By the latter, that part of the northern boundary of the United States which is applicable to this subject is described to be through the Lake-of-the-Woods, "to the most northwestern point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the Mississippi river." The most northwestern point of the Lake-of-the-Woods is perhaps a few minutes north of the 49th parallel of latitude. By the convention of 1818, between the United States and Great Britain, in the second article, it is agreed that a line drawn from the most northwestern point of the Lake-of-the-Woods, along the 49th parallel of north latitude, or if the said point shall not lie in the 49th parallel of north latitude, then that a line drawn from the said point due north or south, as the case may be, until the said line shall intersect the said parallel of north latitude, and from the point of such intersection, due west, along and with said parallel, shall be the line of demarcation between the territories of the United States and those of His Britannic Majesty; and that the said line shall form the northern boundary of the said territories of the United States, and the southern boundary of the territory of His Britannic Majesty, from the Lake-of-the-Woods to the Stony mountains."

This line, it will be observed, is a deviation from the boundary established by the treaty of 1783; for that was to extend due west from the northwestern point of the Lake-of-the-Woods, *without any reference to its latitude*. By this we are, in the contingency named, to run by the shortest line from the specified point on the Lake-of-the-Woods to the forty-ninth parallel of latitude. Whence, it may be asked, the solicitude to adopt this particular parallel, except as it corresponded with pre-existing arrangements, which could have been made under the provisions of the treaty of Utrecht alone? for under no other had any reference at that time been made to the said forty-ninth degree.

This coincidence between the boundaries established by Great Britain and France in 1763, and between Great Britain and the United States in 1783 and in 1818, can scarcely be accounted for on any other supposition, than that the same line had been previously established by the commissioners under the treaty of Utrecht. This conclusion is strengthened by a further coincidence in the boundaries fixed in the said treaties of 1763 and 1783. *In both, the Mississippi is adopted as the boundary.* One of the lines then (the Mississippi) previously established between Great Britain and France, being thus, beyond all cavil, adopted between the United States and Great Britain, may it not be fairly inferred, in the absence of all proof to the contrary, and with strong corroborating proof in favor of the inference, drawn from the stipulations of treaties, lines of demarcation on old maps, &c., that the other line, (forty-ninth parallel,) equally beyond cavil established by the United States and Great Britain, was also the same one previously existing between Great Britain and France; but such line had no existence, unless under the stipulations of the treaty of Utrecht. For these reasons, the committee has adopted the opinion, that the forty-ninth parallel of latitude was actually established by the commissioners under that treaty. It may not be unimportant here to observe, that this

forty-ninth parallel is not a random line, arbitrarily selected, but the one to which France was entitled upon the well-settled principle that the first discoverer of a river is entitled, by virtue of that discovery, to all the unoccupied territory watered by that river and its tributaries.

We have seen that, by the treaty of 1763, the Mississippi, from its *source*, was adopted as the line of demarcation between the British and French possessions. Louisiana then extended north as far as that river reached; in other words, it stretched along the whole course of the Mississippi, from its source, in about latitude forty-nine, to its mouth, in the Gulf of Mexico, in latitude twenty-nine. By the stipulations, then, of this treaty alone, without calling in the aid of the previous treaty of Utrecht, the northern boundary of Louisiana is clearly recognised as a line drawn *due west* from the source of the Mississippi: we say *due west*, because the *east line alone* of the boundaries of Louisiana being specifically and in express terms established by the treaty, *her surface* can only be ascertained by the extension of that *whole line* in the direction in which her territory is admitted to lie. This simple and only practicable process of giving to Louisiana any territory under the treaty, fixes as the whole of her northern boundary a line running due west from the source of the Mississippi, which may, for the purpose of this argument, be fairly assumed as the forty-ninth parallel, without injustice to any party.

Having thus ascertained the northern boundary of Louisiana, it becomes important to inquire what were its western limits, *as between Great Britain and France*; we say between Great Britain and France, because here another competitor appeared, (we speak of 1763,) in the person of the King of Spain, upon whose title we shall insist, if we fail to establish that of France.

The treaty of 1763, professing to establish and actually establishing lines of demarcation between the contiguous territories of the contracting parties, it cannot be denied, except upon strong proof, that all the boundaries about which any dispute then existed, or subsequent disputes could be anticipated, (that is, where their respective territories touched each other,) were then definitively adjusted and settled. These territories are known to have touched on the north and on the east: and accordingly in those quarters we find the lines clearly described. Is it not evident, that had they touched in other points, had there been other quarters where questions of conflicting claims might have arisen, the lines in those quarters also would have been fixed with equal precision? But to the south and west there is no allusion in the treaty; an omission conclusive of the fact that in those directions Great Britain had no territory contiguous to Louisiana. But Louisiana extended, by the stipulations of the treaty, west from the Mississippi; and Great Britain, having no territory or claim to territory which could arrest her extension in that direction, is precluded from denying that the French title covered the whole country from that river to the shores of the Pacific ocean.

The parties to the treaty of 1763 made partition of almost the whole continent of North America, assigning to England the territory east of the Mississippi, and north of the 49th parallel of latitude. No claim was at that time advanced by Great Britain to territory in any other quarter of this vast continent; a very pregnant conclusion against the existence of any such claim. Her Government, ever vigilant for the increase of her territory, with a view to the extension of her commerce, manifested upon the occasion of this treaty an avidity of acquisition which the continent was scarcely large enough to satisfy. Never very nice in scrutinizing the foundation of her pretensions, nor over scrupulous in the selection of means to



enforce them, she was at this juncture in a position peculiarly auspicious to the gratification of her absorbing passion of territorial aggrandizement. Conqueror at every point, she dictated the terms of peace, and asserted successfully every claim founded in the slightest pretext of right. Still no title is either advanced, or even intimated, to possessions west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, in a report from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to the House of Representatives, made January 4, 1839, has the following sentence: "As between France and Great Britain, or Great Britain and the United States, the successor of all the rights of France, the question (of boundary) would seem to be concluded by the treaty of Versailles, already cited, in which Great Britain relinquishes, *irrevocably*, all pretensions west of the Mississippi. On the footing of the treaty of Utrecht, ratified by our convention of 1818, England may possibly, by extension of contiguity, carry her possessions from Hudson's bay across to the Pacific, north of latitude  $49^{\circ}$ ; but by the treaty of Versailles we possess the same right, and an exclusive one, to carry our territory across the continent, south of that line, in the right of France."

It may, perhaps, be urged that the limits of Louisiana, on the west, are confined to the territory drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries; the extent of her claim, founded on the discovery of that river, being restricted to the country so drained. The principle upon which this limitation is attempted may be safely admitted, without in any degree affecting the right for which we contend; because, first, Great Britain is precluded from asserting it by her admission, in 1763, that Louisiana extended indefinitely west from the Mississippi; and, second, because the principle being of universal application, if the discovery of the Mississippi by the French confine Louisiana to its waters east of the Rocky mountains, the discovery of the Columbia by the Americans will extend their claim to the whole country watered by that great river, west of those mountains, and our true claim has this extent. Yet, to avoid unprofitable disputes, and for the sake of peace, we have expressed a willingness (met in no corresponding spirit, the committee is sorry to say) to confine ourselves to much narrower limits.

#### SPANISH TITLE.

The Spanish claim to territory north of California depends in a great measure upon prior discovery, for we cannot find that any settlements were made or colonies planted by them north of the 42d parallel of latitude, except the temporary occupation of Nootka sound, by Martinez, in 1789. That the Spaniards first discovered and took possession of the country at the head of the Gulf of California, and upon the river Colorado, which empties into it, is questioned by none; and that, by such discovery and possession, Spain acquired, against all the world except the natives, the paramount title to the whole country watered by that river and its tributaries, depends upon a principle too well settled now to be denied. Hence we find the Mexican territory extending, with the acquiescence of all nations, to the 42d degree of north latitude, in which the Colorado takes its rise. We mention this fact now, as it furnishes a conclusive answer to the idle claim set up by Great Britain under the pretended discoveries of Sir Francis Drake. It is not the intention of the committee to encumber their report with a dry and barren detail of the dates of vaunted discoveries of early navigators. Little reliance can be placed upon the truth of their reports, and still less upon the accuracy of their observations, which were seldom verified by the subsequent use of more perfect instruments. It will be recollected that the com-

mittee professes to give but an abstract of the title upon which the United States now relies, and will therefore pass over entirely, without notice, all such voyages and discoveries as have no direct bearing upon that point. Within forty years after the discovery of America, Hernan Cortez, the most intrepid if not the least scrupulous of the Spanish generals, overran the empire of Mexico, penetrated to the Pacific ocean, and made a small establishment at Culiacan, on the Gulf of California, in latitude 25 degrees.

From this period till 1543, a number of voyages were made towards the northwest, with results wholly unimportant to the present investigation. In that year, two vessels were placed under the command of Cabrillo, who died before the termination of the voyage, and the command devolved upon Bartolome Ferrelo, who pushed his discoveries as far north as 43 or 44 degrees. The committee refers to this expedition as no otherwise important than as it furnishes another very satisfactory refutation of the claim, even at this day advanced by the British ministry, under the first discovery, as they allege, of Sir Francis Drake. This great captain and successful buccanier arrived in the Pacific ocean in the fall of the year 1578; and during the following winter, having plundered the Spanish towns on the coast and the vessels he encountered on the ocean, he turned his thoughts to England. To avoid the Spanish ships, which would probably assemble in sufficient force to intercept his return round Cape Horn, he resolved upon the route by the Cape of Good Hope. To avoid the westerly winds which prevail in the lower latitudes, he sailed north as far, perhaps, as the 42d or 43d degree of latitude. His crew here suffering from the cold, he again turned towards the south, and, running along the coast, found a good harbor, now San Francisco, in latitude 38 degrees. Here he remained some time, preparing his vessels for the voyage home. We pass over, as entitled to little belief and no consideration, the idle offer by the Indians and the equally idle acceptance by Drake, in the name of Elizabeth, of the sovereignty of the country. Certainly it is scarcely possible to imagine titles founded upon weaker grounds than the discoveries of Cabrillo, Ferrelo, and Drake. But if Drake's voyage be a good basis of the British claim, Ferrelo's is a better of the Spanish, for it was thirty-six years anterior, and *prior tempore potius est jure*.

Juan de Fuca, in the service of Spain, in 1592, discovered and sailed through the straits, in latitude 48 degrees, which now bear his name. The account given of this voyage was many years considered fabulous, and of the existence even of De Fuca there was no other evidence than some letters of an Englishman named Lock, written from Venice in 1596. The veracity and general accuracy of De Fuca, however, have been vindicated by the researches of subsequent navigators. And when Vancouver, in 1792, sailed through these straits, which had been pointed out to him by the American Captain Gray, he was forcibly reminded of the description of De Fuca; and further investigations developing further points of resemblance, he perpetuated his own conviction of the original discovery of De Fuca, by giving his name to the straits, which they bear to this day.

In 1603, a more imposing expedition was fitted out under Viscaino, which did little more than make minute examinations of the coast which had been visited by Cabrillo and Ferrelo.

In 1770, Portola made an establishment at Monterey, in latitude 36°; and in 1776 the bay of San Francisco was settled, in latitude 38°, the most northern town in California.

We now approach a period when the spirit of adventure, stimulated by

the desire and hope of gain, and directed by nautical skill and science, made more rapid and accurate advances in the exploration of the hitherto almost unknown shores of northwestern America. These were carried on almost simultaneously under the authority of Great Britain and Spain. Prior to 1774, the period to which our attention is now directed, no Spanish navigator had examined the coast north of  $43^{\circ}$  or  $44^{\circ}$ , the limits of the discovery of Cabrillo and Viscaïno. In that year, the Spaniards, aroused to renewed activity by the settlements which the Russians were pushing from the north, entered upon the execution of their long-cherished purposes of extending their dominion north of California. For the accomplishing of this object, so dear to Spain, as the *means of enlarging her own possessions, to the exclusion of the rest of the world*, several expeditions were undertaken in the years 1774 and 1775. They were directed to proceed as far north as the 65th degree of latitude, and minutely to examine the coast south to the 43d, to which point it had been explored, a century and a half before by Cabrillo and Viscaïno. Juan Perez, the officer in command of the first expedition, in 1774, did not advance beyond the 54th degree; thence sailing south, he examined the coast to  $49\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , where he discovered a commodious bay, to which he gave the name of Port San Lorenzo. There he remained some time, trading with the natives. This was the first visit ever made to this part of the coast by Europeans. San Lorenzo was four years afterwards entered (discovered, as he alleges) by Cook, and called King George's sound. Its present name is Nootka sound, which derives all its celebrity from becoming the subject of an important negotiation between the British and Spanish Governments. Captain Cook himself admits that he was preceded by these Spaniards, though he comes to the conclusion they had not been at Nootka. He tells us that some account of this voyage had reached England before he sailed. In the following note, referring to the conduct of the natives to Cook, we have this important fact thus distinctly admitted: "Similar to the behaviour of the natives of Nootka, on this occasion, was that of another tribe of Indians further north, in latitude  $57^{\circ} 18'$ , to the Spaniards, *who had preceded Captain Cook only three years, in a voyage to explore the coast of America north of California.*"

In the following year, 1775, another expedition sailed for the same purpose of exploration. They saw the entrance of the strait said to have been discovered by De Fuca, (for the authenticity of De Fuca's narrative had not then been established,) which they were unable to examine in consequence of a violent storm, which drove them off the coast. One of the vessels, sailing south, Heceta, the commander, discovered a promontory called by him San Roque, (now Cape Disappointment,) forming the northern point of the mouth of Columbia river, "*which was thus, for the first time, seen by the natives of a civilized country.*" The other schooner, under Bodega and Maurelle, sailed to the north as far as the 57th degree, and, landing in a bay which they called Port Remedios, formally, and with religious ceremonies, took possession of the country in the name of their sovereign. Other points, along the whole coast, were visited by these exploring expeditions.

#### BRITISH DISCOVERIES.

Having thus briefly brought the account of the Spanish discoveries down to the year 1775, the committee proceeds, with equal brevity, to refer to the result of British voyages, to find a northwest passage from the

Atlantic to the Pacific ocean; for that was the leading object of all their expeditions—to discover a more direct route to India than the circuitous one by the Cape of Good Hope, or the more circuitous and dangerous one round Cape Horn. The genius, the skill, the enterprise, and the fate of Cook, have immortalized his name. Under his auspices, two ships, in 1776, sailed for the Pacific, to explore the coast, with a view to find the outlet of the northwest passage into that ocean. The date (1776) of Cook's sailing is important, as showing that he could lay no claim to the discovery of any part of the coast previously (in 1774-'75) visited and discovered by the Spaniards. The object of Cook's voyage (the discovery of a northwest passage) it is important to keep constantly in view, as it precludes the idea, now so strongly urged, that it was any part of his design to take possession of or to make settlements on any part of the territory now covered by the claim of the United States. That no such result was anticipated from the expedition is incontrovertible, from the instructions given to Cook by the Lords of the Admiralty. After reciting that it is "His Majesty's pleasure that an attempt should be made to find out a passage by sea from the Pacific to the Atlantic ocean," and giving minute directions for their voyage to Otaheite, the instructions proceed: "and having refreshed the people belonging to the sloops under your command, and taken on board such wood and water as they may respectively stand in need of, you are to leave those islands in the beginning of February, or sooner if you shall judge it necessary, and then proceed in as direct a course as you can to the coast of New Albion, endeavoring to fall in with it in the latitude of 45° north, and taking care, in your way thither, not to lose any time in search of new lands, or to stop at any you may fall in with, unless you find it necessary to *recruit your wood and water*." After strictly enjoining him "not to touch upon any part of the Spanish dominions," &c., the instructions proceed: "Upon your arrival on the coast of New Albion, you are to put into the first convenient port, to *recruit your wood and water* and procure refreshments, and then to proceed northward along the coast as far as the latitude of 65°, or further if you are not obstructed by lands or ice; *taking care not to lose any time in exploring rivers or inlets, or upon any other account, until you get into the before-mentioned latitude of 65°, where we could wish you to arrive in the month of June next.*" "When you get that length, you are very carefully to search for and to explore such rivers or inlets as may appear to be of a considerable extent, and pointing towards Hudson's or Baffin's bays." "You are also, with the consent of the natives, to take possession, in the name of the King of Great Britain, of convenient situations, in such countries as you may discover, *that have not already been discovered or visited by any European Power*, and to distribute among the inhabitants such things as will remain as traces and testimonies of your having been there; but if you find the countries so discovered are uninhabited, you are to take possession of them for His Majesty, *by setting up proper marks and inscriptions, as first discoverers and possessors.*"

The name of New Albion, given in these instructions to a part of the coast, is well calculated to excite a smile, when we recollect that it has no other warrant than the predatory voyage of Sir Francis Drake. We have said these instructions render it certain that it was no part of the object of Cook's voyage to acquire territory and effect settlements; and we cannot resist the conviction that the name was selected, and the directions to acquire territory by negotiation, &c., were given solely to preclude this



very inference, and not that they should be obeyed, for that is manifestly incompatible with the positive instructions, "to lose no time in exploring inlets or rivers, *or upon any other account.*" The prohibition to *lose any time, on any account*, south of  $65^{\circ}$ , and the direction "*carefully to search for and explore rivers and inlets*" north of that parallel, seem to justify the inference that the instructions to *take possession* &c., could only apply to territory situated to the north of  $65^{\circ}$ , where alone they were permitted to spend sufficient time, and directed to make the surveys necessary for that purpose. But this inference becomes absolutely certain, when to the instructions we add the practical commentary of Cook's conduct under them. To this we now proceed.

On the 7th of March, 1778, in latitude  $44^{\circ} 10'$  north, Captain Cook first saw the "long looked-for coast of New Albion." All their efforts to find a harbor or effect a landing were baffled by tempestuous weather and contrary winds until the 29th, when they found an inlet and safe harbor in latitude  $49^{\circ} 33'$ , now called Nootka sound. This point is the same visited and examined by Juan Perez, in 1774, and which he called Port San Lorenzo. Of the natives, Cook says: "They showed great readiness to part with any thing they had, and took from us whatever we offered in exchange; but were more desirous of iron than of any other of our articles of commerce, *appearing to be perfectly acquainted with the use of that metal.* Subsequently, he ascribes "their great dexterity in works of wood to the assistance they receive from iron tools."

Whence did these savages, cannibals as they are represented, derive their knowledge of the use of iron, and of the mode of converting it into tools? If there be any difficulty in answering this question, there can be none in asserting they did not derive it from the British, for on their arrival they found the iron and tools in common use. Cook, foreseeing that he was exposed to this embarrassing interrogatory, seeks to avoid the only reasonable solution, in referring to the previous visit of the Spaniards, by saying, "Iron being familiar to these people, it was very natural for us to speculate about the mode of its being conveyed to them." In the course of this speculation, he indulges in a variety of conjectures not very probable—as that the iron came from the north. If so, it must have been from the Russians, who at that period had not penetrated so far south; or from the English settlements on Hudson's bay, which may be pronounced impossible. He does not hesitate to assert that the Spaniards (the account of whose visit to this coast in 1774 and 1775 he admits had reached England before he sailed) did not introduce the iron at Nootka sound. He adds, with great simplicity, that it cannot easily be determined "whether these things be introduced by way of Hudson's bay and Canada, from the Indians who deal with our traders, and so successively across from one tribe to another, or whether they be brought from the northwestern parts of Mexico *in the same manner.*" He rejects the only probable supposition, that the Spaniards, who unquestionably were there in 1774, left this iron in exchange for skins, and resorts to an idle fancy of its having been transmitted from the English or Spaniards, through the intervention of numerous and hostile tribes of Indians. This iron may have been left by the Spaniards for the same purposes that Cook was directed to leave that, or similar substances—to *remain as traces and evidences of their having been there.*" Several articles were found, of which the "materials certainly were European"—such as brass ornaments, of which it is said, if not from Canada, they "must have been introduced at Nootka from the quarter of Mexico, *from whence no doubt*

*the two silver spoons met with here were originally derived."* Here is proof, which cannot be controverted, that Nootka sound had been previously discovered and visited by another European Power; in which event, by the very terms of his instructions, Cook was prohibited from taking possession. He found in the iron, the tools, the brass ornaments, the silver spoons, "*traces and evidences*" that the Spaniards had been there. Under these circumstances, he literally obeyed his instructions, took in a supply "of wood and water," and, although he remained there from March 29 to April 26, he gives no intimation of having taken possession in the "name of His Majesty," as he subsequently did when he had proceeded further north. In June following, in latitude  $61^{\circ} 30'$ , he discovered the mouth of a large river, which, after his death, received his own name. Believing this "river capable of extensive inland navigation," Cook sent Mr. King to the land, "there to display the flag, and take possession of the country and river in His Majesty's name." Having performed this idle ceremony, the expedition prosecuted its northern voyage, in which we have no interest to accompany it. Cook never returned to this part of the coast. We have the opinion of the British ministry of the validity of the title acquired by Cook at this place, in the fact that in 1825 they admitted the Russian possessions to extend as far south as  $54^{\circ} 40'$ .

We have thus seen that Captain Cook first touched the American shore in the spring of 1778, and could thus acquire no right of possession adverse to that of Spain, whose vessels had visited the same point four years before. If the British, by raising their flag and other ceremonies, acquired a valid title to the country on Cook's river, the Spaniards had, three years before, acquired a title equally valid, by the performance of similar ceremonies, to the territory of Port Remedios, in latitude  $57^{\circ}$ . The title of Spain was at this period unquestionably better than that of Great Britain. Has any thing occurred since to deprive Spain of this advantage? The British ministry contend that, by the surrender of the territory under the stipulations of the convention of Nootka sound, the title of Spain was transferred to Great Britain. If this reasoning be worth any thing, it is only upon the admission that the title of Spain thus acquired was good; for if bad, no right would have been acquired under it. It is necessary to look into the act of surrender by Spain, to ascertain the extent of the British right under it; for they can claim no more territory than was actually surrendered. In other words, the title of Spain remains good to all her territory not surrendered. The surrender was made by virtue of an order from Count Florida Blanca, dated May 12, 1791. The following extract describes *all* that was to be restored: "You will give directions that His Majesty's officer, who will deliver this letter, shall immediately be put in possession of the buildings and districts or parcels of land which were occupied by the *subjects* of that sovereign *in April, 1780*, as well in the port of Nootka sound or of St. Lawrence, as in the other, said to be called Port Cox, and to be situated about sixteen leagues distant from the former, to the southward; and that such parcels or districts of land, of which the *English subjects* were dispossessed, be restored to the said officer." It will be seen how cautious Spain was in so wording this order as to exclude the presumption of any right of dominion in the Crown of Great Britain, and confining it to the possession of certain tracts or parcels of land by British *subjects*. The British subject was Meares, who gives us the extent of his grant in the following words: King Maquinna "most readily consented to grant us a spot of ground in his territory, *whereon a house might be built* for the accommo-

dation of the people we intended to leave behind." This looks very little like an intention on the part of the British to take permanent possession of the country; and that Meares himself considered it a temporary establishment only, is clear from his having promised Maquinna, that when they *finally left the coast*, he should "enter into full possession of the house and all the goods thereunto belonging." It is a little doubtful whether the house were ever built; but if it were, then the surrender of this temporary house and lot to a British subject is to give title in the British Crown to the whole of that coast, for many degrees of latitude.

Captain Vancouver was sent to receive the surrender, but Señor Quadra, putting the same construction upon the letter of Count Florida Blanca which it has received from the committee, viz: that he was to surrender only the particular parcel of land occupied by Meares; and Vancouver contending for the whole territory adjoining Nootka sound, the parties separated, and no surrender was in fact made. For the particulars of the correspondence between Captain Vancouver and Señor Quadra, relative to the surrender, the committee refers to the 2d volume of Vancouver's voyage. For an account of the transactions which led to the Nootka convention, and the true meaning and effect of that convention, the committee refers to the report of Mr. Cushing and the Memoir of Mr. Greenhow.

On the 14th of December, 1790, Mr. Duncombe, in the House of Commons, moved an address to His Majesty on the Nootka convention. The following extract from that address will show what the minister claimed to have acquired by that convention:

"They (the House of Commons) are eager to embrace the first opportunity of offering to His Majesty their cordial congratulations on so satisfactory an issue of the late negotiation, which has continued to these kingdoms the blessings of peace, has maintained the honor of His Majesty's crown, by *providing an adequate reparation for the violence which was committed at Nootka, and has secured to His Majesty's subjects the exercise of their navigation, commerce, and fisheries, in those parts of the world which were the subject of discussion.*"

Mr. Fox opposed this address, and the following extracts from his speech will show his estimate of these acquisitions:

"In the early part of the debate we had heard nothing but rhodomontade about acquisition, nothing but of new sources of trade, new objects of enterprise, new oceans and new continents opened to the activity of our merchants and the courage of our sailors. Such flowers of rhetoric were elegant embellishments, equally convenient to give force to argument or to conceal the want of it. But was it true that we had opened any of those sources, or made a single acquisition? An honorable gentleman, who spoke immediately before him, had put the question upon its true grounds. Having caught the contagion of the speakers who preceded him on the same side, he had talked of gaining and acquiring; but, in the progress of his argument, he had very properly stated that we had *acquired nothing, but only obtained security for what we possessed before.*

"What, then, was the extent of our rights before the convention, and to what extent were they now secured to us? We possessed and exercised the free navigation of the Pacific ocean, without restraint or limitation; we possessed and exercised the right of carrying on fisheries in the South seas equally unlimited. This estate we had, and were daily improving; it was not to be disgraced by the name of an acquisition. The admission of part of these rights by Spain was all we had obtained. It remained to

inquire what it had cost. Our right before was to settle in any part of South or Northwest America not fortified against us by previous occupancy; and we are now restricted to settle in certain places only, and under certain restrictions. This was an important concession on our part; our rights of fishing extended to the whole ocean; and now it too was limited, and to be carried on within certain distances of the Spanish settlements. Our right of making settlements was not, as now, a *right to build huts, but to plant colonies* if we thought proper. Surely these were not acquisitions."

Speaking of the indefinite limits of Spanish America, he says: "On this point we have gained nothing. We have renounced the right of permanent settlement on the whole extent of South America, and where the admitted right of settlement on the Northwest coast commenced was completely undefined; *it was said at Nootka, but we did not know that Nootka would be restored.*

"By the third article, we are authorized to navigate the Pacific ocean and South seas unmolested, for the purpose of carrying on our fisheries, and to land on the unsettled coasts for the purpose of trading with the natives; but after this pompous recognition of right to navigation, fishery, and commerce, comes another article, (the sixth,) which takes away all right of landing and erecting even temporary huts for any purpose but that of carrying on the fishery, and amounts to a complete dereliction of all right to settle in any way for the purpose of commerce with the natives.

"In renouncing all right to make settlements in South America, we had given to Spain what she considered as inestimable, and had in return been contented with dross."

Vancouver informs us that in April, 1792, he discovered a sail, which soon hoisted American colors and fired a gun to leeward. She proved to be the ship Columbia, commanded by Mr. Robert Gray, of Boston, whence she had been absent nineteen months; and this brings us to the

#### AMERICAN DISCOVERIES.

Vancouver sent a boat on board of the Columbia, to the officer of which Captain Gray communicated information of the extent of his visit into a strait which had attracted much attention. He said "he had penetrated only fifty miles into the strait in question, in an E. S. E. direction," &c. The inlet he supposed to be the same De Fuca had discovered, *which opinion seemed to be universally received by all modern writers.* He likewise informed them of his having been "*off the mouth of a river in latitude 46° 10', where the outset or reflux was so strong as to prevent his entering for nine days.*" Vancouver adds: "This was probably the opening passed by us on the forenoon of the 27th, and was apparently inaccessible, not from the current, but from the breakers that extended across it."

So Vancouver had no idea of there being a river there until he was informed by Captain Gray. He afterwards admits Gray discovered the river; for after leaving Nootka, in October, 1782, he says the serenity of the weather encouraged him to hope that he might be enabled, on his way south, "to re-examine the coast of New Albion, and particularly a river and a harbor discovered by Mr. Gray, in the Columbia, between the 46th and 47th degrees of north latitude." Here is a distinct recognition, by an officer of the British navy, of the first discovery of that river by a citizen of the United States. In the year 1787, the expedition of which the ship Columbia formed part was fitted out by the sagacious liberality and enlightened enterprise of several citizens of Boston, for the purposes of



commerce and discovery on the Northwest coast. From the log-book of the Columbia we learn that on 11th day of May, 1792, Captain Gray discovered the mouth of the Columbia river, and, crossing the bar, "found this to be a large river of fresh water, up which we steered." Here they remained until the 20th.

That Captain Gray was the first to discover the Columbia river, it is believed is not now denied. It only remains to inquire whether the discovery has been followed up by such possession and acts of ownership as manifested an intention on the part of the Government of the United States to appropriate the territory thus discovered. A reasonable time to manifest this disposition must in all cases be allowed; and what shall be reasonable time must depend upon the circumstances of each case. In the opinion of the committee, the only equitable rule is this: that such a length of time must have elapsed after the discovery as, under all the circumstances of the party making it, shall repel the presumption of his intention to follow up the discovery by actual possession; or, in other words, that the right to take possession is abandoned. It will be recollected that, at the time of this discovery, the United States had just commenced the organization of a new Government; that for many years afterwards its undivided attention was required to its relations with foreign nations, to guard its own interests from the aggressions to which they were constantly exposed by the great belligerent Powers of France and England. These circumstances, and indeed the whole history of the United States for the next twenty years, sufficiently account for their inattention to this new territory, without giving any countenance to the idea that they had abandoned their claim, or in the slightest degree weakening their right growing out of the discovery. Whatever opinion may be entertained of the propriety of this rule, there can be no doubt that the first discovery, followed by the first possession, *no matter at how remote a period*, constitutes a perfect title; and it is equally clear, that in case of simultaneous possession by two parties, one of whom is the discoverer, the right shall be in him.

In 1803, the expedition which was placed under the direction of Captains Lewis and Clarke was planned by Mr. Jefferson and approved by Congress, who made the necessary appropriations for carrying it into effect. The object was to ascend the Missouri to its source in the Rocky mountains, and, crossing that ridge, to explore the Columbia from its source to its mouth in the Pacific. This duty was performed by those officers with great intrepidity, judgment, and fidelity; their journal furnishing a large amount of useful information relative to the geography, the Indian tribes, and the animal, vegetable, and mineral productions of those vast regions. Having crossed the mountains early in October, 1805, they descended in their canoes Lewis river to its junction with the Columbia, and down that river to its mouth, where they arrived on the 14th day of November. Having selected a proper site, they built the houses necessary for their accommodation, and a fort for their protection during the winter, which was passed in making such examination of the surrounding country as the season would permit. Early in the spring, being seriously apprehensive of want of provisions, they anticipated the period originally fixed for their return. Before leaving the country, they gave certificates to several of the chiefs, as "traces and evidences" of their having been there. With the same view, a paper was also posted up in the *fort*, to the following effect: "The object of this last is, that through the medium of some civilized person, who may see the same, it may be made known to the world that the party con-

sisting of the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, and who were sent out by the Government of the United States to explore the interior of the continent of North America, did penetrate the same by the way of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, to the discharge of the latter into the Pacific ocean, where they arrived on the 14th day of November, 1805, and departed on the 23d day of March, 1806, on their return to the United States, by the same route by which they had come out." On their return homeward, they divided into two parties: Captain Lewis carefully examining Clarke's river and its principal branches; while Captain Clarke, crossing over to the Yellow Stone, descended that river to its junction with the Missouri, where the two parties reunited; thence they proceeded to St. Louis, and the two officers reached Washington in February, 1807. The practicability of crossing the Rocky mountains being thus satisfactorily established, the attention of our citizens was attracted to this quarter by the quantity and quality of the furs, which were said to be excellent and abundant.

"The earliest attempts made by citizens of the United States for similar purposes (trading establishments) were those of an association, formed at St. Louis in 1808, called the *Missouri Fur Company*. At its head was an enterprising Spaniard, named Manuel Lisa, through whose exertions, chiefly, several trading posts were, within the two ensuing years, established on the Upper Missouri, and one beyond the Rocky mountains, on the headwaters of the Lewis, the southern branch of the Columbia. *The post on the Lewis appears to have been the first ever formed by white men in the country drained by the Columbia.\** The enmity of the savages in its vicinity, and the difficulty of procuring a regular supply of food, however, obliged Mr. Henry, the superintendent, to abandon it in 1810."

In the same year (1810) Mr. John Jacob Astor, of New York, formed an association for the purpose of occupying positions on the Columbia river favorable to a successful prosecution of the fur trade. It was known as the Pacific Fur Company. The plan was to divide the forces intended for this enterprise; to send part by sea round Cape Horn, and part by land across the continent. Accordingly, the ship *Tonquin*, with the first detachment, sailed from New York in 1810; and in January following the second detachment left St. Louis, under the direction of Mr. Wilson P. Huet.

The *Tonquin* arrived at the mouth of the Columbia in March, 1811, and, establishing their principal factory on the south bank of the river, they gave it the name of Astoria, made familiar to every ear by the elegant and interesting narrative of Mr. Washington Irving. As the object of the committee is only to show the continual claim and actual possession of the territory, from the time of its discovery in 1792, it will not further our design to give any account of the commercial and trading transactions of the association. They occupied Astoria, and their different hunting and trading establishments on the river, until the 16th day of October, 1813; having thus been in actual possession from March, 1811—two years and six months. At the latter period, having received information, upon which they could rely, that a British force was approaching, forcibly to dispossess them, the managers sold "all the establishments, furs, and property," to the Northwest Company. The report of the approach of a British force was soon verified; for, in December following, the *Rackoon* British sloop of war arrived at Astoria, of which Captain Black took possession, sub-

\* *Greenhow*.—Permanent post must be meant; for Lewis and Clarke had erected Fort Clatsop, in 1805, as we have seen, at the mouth of the river.

stituted the English for the American flag, and changed the name to Fort George.

From this narrative, it appears that the Americans were the first to discover the river Columbia, and first to take possession of the territory through which it passes. The committee has no doubt that the United States has thus acquired a title to that whole territory, of more validity than that of any other nation. As the British Government now refuses to acknowledge the claims of the United States either to the original discovery or possession, (the *discovery was admitted by Vancouver*;) the committee will advert to the facts and reasons by which they justify this refusal.

The pretensions of Captain Gray to the honor and right of the discovery are contested, because it is alleged that, at the same time, Alexander Mackenzie, a British subject, discovered the northern branch of that river. If that allegation be true, it certainly produces some difficulty. That it is not true, we have the testimony of Mackenzie himself, who has left us the only account of his travels. Peace river rises in the Rocky mountains in latitude  $55^{\circ}$ , and, running generally a northeast course, empties into Slave river in latitude  $59^{\circ}$ . The entire river is east of the mountains. But on this river Mackenzie tells us he spent the winter of 1792-'93; that for the accommodation of his party, on the 7th December, 1792, he "set all hands at work to construct the fort, build the house, and form storehouses," at a point which he ascertained, "by various observations," to be in latitude  $56^{\circ} 9'$  north, and longitude  $117^{\circ} 35' 15''$  west. This place they left on the 9th of May, 1793, and ascending Peace river on the 17th *came in sight of the Rocky mountains*. We have seen that in May, 1792, Gray had discovered the mouth of the river; that, so far from the river being simultaneously discovered, the American discovery was at least one year before the British, even if Mackenzie ever touched the river. His own account gives no reason to suppose that he did. He says that, after crossing the Rocky mountains, he came to a large river, which he descended for several days in a canoe; but, becoming discouraged by the difficulties of the navigation, he determined to make an effort to reach the Pacific ocean by land. For this purpose he returned up the river to a point from which they had resolved to advance west by the shortest route to the ocean, where they arrived July 22d, in latitude  $52^{\circ} 23' 43''$ . This river he tells us was *navigable*, and by his account he reached it in about  $56^{\circ}$  north. None of the sources of the Columbia are north of about  $54^{\circ}$ . The source of the Columbia is directly south of the source of Peace river; but the object of Mackenzie (to reach the Pacific) would carry him west, and not south. The Columbia is known not to be navigable at any point where it is possible Mackenzie could have touched it. The river asserted to be the Columbia he left on the 4th, and arrived at the ocean on the 22d of July—an interval in which it is impossible they could have performed the journey, which could not have been less than four or five hundred miles in the most direct route. Mackenzie's general course from the river was southwest, and yet he informs us that on the 10th, after six days' travelling, he found the latitude to be  $53^{\circ} 4' 32''$ , which is nearly as far north as any of the sources of the Columbia. For these reasons, the committee is led to the conclusion that Mackenzie did not see the Columbia river. He himself admits he did not do so until June, 1793, leaving *Captain Gray the undisputed discoverer*.

The committee submits the following extract of Mr. Greenhow's Me-

moir upon the disputed question of prior possession: "With regard to the priority of their discoveries, the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, in the *statement* presented by them to the American minister during the negotiation of 1826, make the following observations: 'In reply to the allegations, on the part of the United States, that their claim to the country is strengthened and confirmed by the discovery of the sources of the Columbia, and by the exploration of the course of that river, to the sea, by Lewis and Clarke, in 1805-'6, Great Britain affirms, and can distinctly prove, that if not before at least in the *same and subsequent years* her Northwestern Trading Company had, by means of their agent, Mr. Thompson, already established their posts among the Flathead and Kootanie tribes on the headwaters or main branch of the Columbia, and were gradually extending them down the principal stream of that river; thus giving to Great Britain in this particular, as in the discovery of the mouth of the river, a title of parity at least, if not of priority of discovery, as opposed to the United States. It was from these posts, that, having heard of the American establishment forming in 1811 at the mouth of the river, Mr. Thompson hastened thither, descending the river to ascertain the nature of that establishment.' As the words '*in the same and subsequent years*' are rather indefinite, the dates of the occurrences above mentioned will be stated somewhat more exactly. Lewis and Clarke reached the Pacific ocean, after exploring the Columbia river from one of its most eastern headwaters in the Rocky mountains to its mouth, on the 15th of November, 1805. In the spring of 1806, as will hereafter be shown, Mr. Simon Frazer and other persons in the employment of the Northwest Company, crossed the Rocky mountains through the great gap near the 56th degree of latitude, and established the first British trading post west of that chain, on Frazer's lake, about two degrees further south; but no evidence has been obtained that British subjects had ever visited any part of the country drained by the Columbia, above the falls of that river, before the summer of 1811. In that year, Mr. Thompson, astronomer of the Northwest Company, and his party, on their way down the stream, for the purpose of anticipating the Americans at its mouth, did build some huts on the northern branch, and did there open trade with the Flat-head and Kootanie Indians; and from those posts Mr. Thompson did indeed hasten down to the ocean, where he however found the citizens of the United States in full possession." Suppose the possession by Thompson and Lewis and Clarke to have been simultaneous, as alleged by the British ministry, the committee is clearly of opinion that even such possession strengthened by our prior discovery, gives us the better title.

Having thus established, in the United States, the priority, both of discovery and possession, the committee proceeds to a consideration of the events which followed the occupation of Astoria by the British, in December, 1813. By the first article of the treaty of Ghent, it is agreed that "all territory, places, and possessions, whatsoever, taken by either party from the other during the war," &c., "shall be restored without delay." Astoria, having been taken from the Americans during the war, was included in the stipulations of this article, and was restored to the United States through their agent, J. B. Prevost, Esq., in the following manner:

"In obedience to the commands of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, signified in a despatch from the right honorable the Earl Bathurst, addressed to the partners or agents of the Northwest Company, bearing



date the 27th of January, 1818, and in obedience to a subsequent order, dated 26th of July, from W. H. Sheriff, Esq., captain of His Majesty's ship *Andromache*, we, the undersigned, do, in conformity to the first article of the treaty of Ghent, restore to the Government of the United States, through its agent, J. B. Prevost, Esq., the settlement of Fort George, on the Columbia river. Given under our hands, in triplicate, at Fort George, Columbia river, this 6th day of October, 1818.

"F. HICKEY,

*Captain of His Majesty ship Blossom.*

"J. KEITH,

*of the Northwest Company."*

"I do hereby acknowledge to have this day received, in behalf of the Government of the United States, the possession of the settlement designated above, in conformity to the first article of the treaty of Ghent. Given under my hand, in triplicate, at Fort George, Columbia river, this 6th day of October, 1818.

"J. B. PREVOST,

*Agent for the United States."*

It is true that, in the despatch of Earl Bathurst, and in Lord Castlereagh's instructions to the British minister at Washington, a reservation is made, that the surrender of possession should not be deemed an admission of the absolute and exclusive right of dominion claimed by the United States; but at the same time, in explanation to Mr. Rush, as stated in a public despatch, "*Lord Castlereagh admitted, in the most ample extent, our right to be reinstated, and to be the party in possession while treating of the title.*"\*

Notwithstanding this protest against any inference favorable to our title from the restoration of the territory, that restoration, and the admission of Lord Castlereagh of our right to the possession during the controversy, are conclusive of some facts very important to an equitable settlement of the rights in dispute. In the first place, it proves the Americans to have been in possession in June, 1812, at the declaration of the war; for such places only were to be restored as were taken during the war. And, in the second place, the act of restoration, and the admission of Lord Castlereagh, establish the important fact that we are actually in possession now; for they recognise our right to the possession while treating of the title, which *treating*, unfortunately, has not yet been brought to a close.

The effect of the surrender of Fort George was to restore the United States to their position before the capture, reinstating them in all their territorial rights, &c. To determine what was restored, we must first ascertain what was surrendered. The act of surrender designates it as "*the settlement of Fort George, on the Columbia river.*" The question recurs, what was embraced in the *settlement* of Fort George? Certainly something besides the fort itself. The terms of the act imply that the restoration extended beyond the site of the fort. The extent of the settlement of Astoria (Fort George) depends upon actual occupation, intention clearly manifested to extend that occupation, and principles of law by which the limits of settlements in new countries are defined. The discovery of the Columbia by Gray; the public mission of Lewis and Clarke, who twice traversed the

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\* Cushing's report.

whole breadth of the territory, spent the winter in a temporary fort, which they built on the bank of the river, and took formal possession, by the authority, in the name, and at the expense of the United States, constitute a title to territory beyond the mere line of march and the ground occupied by the fort. The right of our citizens to form settlements was coextensive with the territory covered by this title.

We have already seen that the discovery of a river and actual possession within a reasonable time give the right to form settlements on every part of the territory watered by the river and its tributaries. This right may be surrendered, or it may be forfeited by *non-user*. There is no pretence that in this case it has ever been surrendered, nor can a forfeiture be successfully urged. This principle will carry the northern boundary of the United States west of the Rocky mountains to about 54°. This will be the northern limit of the title acquired by the discovery and possession above referred to.

There is another principle, by which the extent of the right of our people to form settlements in this territory may be ascertained. It is settled that the nation which takes possession of unoccupied territory acquires the right to form settlements of its people in every direction, over one-half the space intervening between the point of such actual possession, and the settlements already made of any other organized community. How will the recognition of this principle affect the present inquiry? The position occupied by Lewis and Clarke, (Fort Clatsop,) and Astoria, are in latitude 46° 18'. The most southern point of which Cook took possession, though no settlement followed, was at the mouth of Cook's river, in latitude 61° 30'. The intermediate point between the mouth of Columbia and Cook's river is 53° 54', and this would be our northern limit. The extent of our right under either principle would be nearly the same.

The committee proceeds to exhibit, from the best information within its reach, how far this right of settlement by citizens of the United States has been actually exercised. Mr. Astor, in a letter to the Hon. J. Q. Adams, then Secretary of State, dated New York, January 4, 1823, states that his plan in 1810 was to make an establishment at the mouth of Columbia river, which should serve as a place of depot, and give further facilities for *conducting a trade across this continent*, to that river, &c. We have already stated that the agents of Mr. Astor, apprehending an invasion from a British force, sold the establishments, &c., to the Northwest Company. The article of agreement for this purpose throws some light upon the extent of country actually in the occupation of the Americans. It is dated the 16th day of October, 1813, and recites, that an association had heretofore carried "on the fur trade to the Columbia river and *its dependencies*, under the firm and denomination of the Pacific Fur Company." The first articles covenant, &c., for the sale and delivery "of the whole of their establishments, furs, and present stock on hand, on the Columbia and *Thompson's rivers*;" and the fourth article refers to "John Reid's adventure, and Freeman's, in the vicinity of Snake country and Spanish river." One of the witnesses to this agreement is Alfred Seton, Esquire, now a resident of the city of New York. A letter was addressed to him, asking information of the number and location of Mr. Astor's establishments. Mr. Seton was one of the young men selected by Mr. Astor to carry out the extensive plans which he had formed for establishing a trade in these vast regions. He is a gentleman of education and character, and participated in

the events he relates. His reply is dated at New York, 26th March, 1842, of which the following extracts are applicable to our present purpose: "Thompson's river was the north branch of the Columbia. In the common parlance of the country, among our people, the southern branch of the Columbia, by which Lewis and Clarke went down to the main river, was called Lewis's river. So the northern branch was, by the northwesterners, called Thompson's river."

"The post or establishment alluded to in the treacherous agreement for the transfer of Mr. Astor's property was that of Okenagan, established by David Stuart, of the Pacific Fur Company, in the autumn of 1811, and situated about 150 or 200 miles up Thompson's river, or the north branch of the Columbia." Mr. Seton proceeds: "I will try to convey to you some sort of ideas of the country, and out of these you must pick, if you can, the information you require. Lay before you the map appended to the second volume of Astoria, follow up the South branch of the Columbia, or Lewis's river, until you come to a tributary stream called the Kooskooske. This little river you will see runs from a spur of the Rocky mountains. Lewis and Clarke embarked on it, where it first becomes deep enough to swim a canoe, and floated down to the south branch of the Columbia. This south branch, from the mouth of the Kooskooske to the forks, being the only part navigated by Lewis and Clarke, is called Lewis's river; above the mouth of the Kooskooske, it is called the Snake river, and the adjacent country the Snake country. The Indian name for this part of it, however, is the Camoenum. The Pacific Fur Company established a post at the head of the Kooskooske in the summer of 1812, and nearly where Lewis and Clarke built their canoes. This was located by Donald Mackenzie, of whose party both John Reid and myself were members. In our various exploring expeditions, to make ourselves practically acquainted with the fur bearing properties of the country, it was my lot to take the route from the mouth of the Kooskooske, along the Snake or Camoenum river, to the west." "Mackenzie explored the region of country north and west, lying between the Kooskooske and the northern branch of the Columbia, (called as before said, sometimes Thompson's river, and laid down in the map referred to as Clarke's river.) This region was called the Spokane country, and in it he found Mr. Clarke, also a partner of the Pacific Fur Company, already established." "John Reid went to the eastward, if I remember rightly, to look at the country in that direction."

"At the time of the transfer of Mr. Astor's property, the posts actually established were—

"1. Astoria, near to the seacoast.

"2. Okenagan, at the confluence of that river and the north branch of the Columbia.

"3. Spokane House, on the river of the same name, and with the Spokane Indians. A branch of this establishment had also been pushed further west, in the Flathead country, and among the Coutonnois Indians.

"4. A post, as before mentioned, on the Kooskooske.

"5. One on the Wallamette river."

These posts, established in all parts of the territory on the Columbia and its principal tributaries, at intervals of several hundred miles, and with water communication between them all, constitute all the possession which the Pacific Fur Company had it in its power at that time to take, and all that was required by the laws and usages of European nations in acquiring ter-

ritory on this continent. The inchoate title in the United States, by the discovery of Gray and the exploration of Lewis and Clarke, was perfected by the actual settlement and occupation by Mr. Astor and his associates. Although a title by discovery, without possession, may be lost by lapse of time, yet the title of the United States, perfected as this was by the actual possession and settlement of their people, could not be thus lost or divested, except by conquest or agreement. If the posts above enumerated were included in the capitulation of Astoria, then they are within the provisions of the treaty of Ghent, and were restored with it; and of course there was no conquest. If not included in the capitulation, although the American parties (cut off from their depot) were withdrawn, our title is not lost, for there is no pretence of an agreement for its surrender. The territory belonged to the United States; was not open to the colonization of any foreign country; nor has the Northwest Company any rights there, except such as were conceded by the conventions of 1818 and 1827—no right of domain in them, or dominion in their Government.

The committee proceeds to inquire, what are the consequences of this actual possession, coupled with the right? The restoration absolute, but for the single condition that it shall not be used as evidence in the discussion of the title; and the right of possession perfect in its character, limited only in its duration, constitute, during the continuance of the latter, a complete title.

We learn from Vattel that this right of possession comprehends two things: "1. The *domain*, in virtue of which the nation alone may use this country for the supply of its necessities, and may dispose of it in such manner and derive from it such advantages as it thinks proper. 2. The *empire*, or the right of sovereign command, by which the nation ordains and regulates at its pleasure every thing that passes in the country."

The following paragraph is exactly applicable to our present case:

"When a nation takes possession of a country (our possession is admitted) that never yet belonged to another, it is considered as possessing there the *empire* or sovereignty, at the same time with the *domain*." All the powers and authorities of government are comprised in the right of empire, which Vattel informs us accompanies the possession. But if the authority of Vattel be rejected, reason and argument lead directly to the same conclusion. It will scarcely be contended that the possession thus restored was a mere naked possession, conferring no rights upon the United States. The power which was competent to send Mr. Prevost to receive and acknowledge the act of restoration, might certainly have sent a battalion of troops to have marched into the vacated post, and to have restored the flag of the United States. In such an event, who that knows the restless and enterprising character of our people will hesitate to believe that long ere this large and flourishing settlements would have been formed in every part of the territory? We say in every part of the territory, for the possession of Astoria, at the mouth of the river, was a virtual possession of the whole, and the restoration of Astoria was a virtual restoration of the whole. If such settlements had been formed by citizens of the United States, it would have become not only the right but the duty of our Government to have extended to them the protection of our power and the benefits of our laws, otherwise they must have been settlements without laws; for if the United States, in possession, had not the right of empire, no other Government, out of possession, could lay claim to any such right. This course of



reasoning might be greatly extended; but the committee, throwing out these few hints for the consideration of the House, proceeds to the examination of the conventions of 1818 and 1827, to ascertain if the right of empire, thus in the United States, has been, by any thing therein contained, divested or restricted.

By the third article of the convention of 1818, "it is agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the Northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony mountains, shall, together with its harbors, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be free and open, for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of the present convention, to the vessels, citizens, and subjects of the two Powers; it being well understood that this agreement is not to be construed to the prejudice of any claim which either of the two high contracting parties may have to any part of the said country," &c.

By the first article of the convention of 1827, it is agreed that the provisions of the first article of the convention of 1818, above recited, "shall be, and they are hereby, indefinitely extended and continued in force, in the same manner as if all the provisions of the said article were herein specifically recited."

By the second article it is agreed, "it shall be competent, however, to either of the contracting parties, in case either should think fit, at any time after the 20th of October, 1828, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party, to annul and abrogate this convention; and it shall, in such case, be accordingly entirely annulled and abrogated, after the expiration of the said term of notice."

The third article saves all rights and claims of the parties. The first remark we have to make upon these articles is, that they contain no reference whatever to the possession, which, by the treaty of Ghent, and subsequent acts under it, was acknowledged to be in the United States, in the most formal manner, and which could not be divested except in a manner equally formal, or by the consent of the United States, under the limitations of that acknowledgment. It is hardly necessary to observe that in neither manner is it divested by the stipulations of these conventions, or either of them.

What rights, then, were granted or acquired by these conventions? Clearly none inconsistent with our previously admitted possession. We have seen, from the highest authority, that the right to govern is incident to the possession. The right of the citizens of the United States, under this possession, and with the permission of this Government, to cultivate the soil, navigate the rivers, fish, hunt, &c., is also clear. This right of our citizens existed with the possession before the war of 1812, and was restored with the restoration of the "settlement of Fort George," on the 6th day of October, 1818, prior to either of these conventions, and of course independent of both. If this be true, we acquired no new rights under the convention of 1818; all these accompanied our prior possession. *That convention, then, was a concession to English subjects of a participation in individual rights, which, but for that convention, would have appertained exclusively to our own citizens.* It contains no recognition of any authority in the British Government over the territory.

The Government of the United States now proposes to extend its laws over this territory. The question arises, whether we are bound, under the convention of 1827, to give the notice required by the second article? The

committee thinks there is no obligation on our Government to do so. The expediency of doing it is rather a question for the Executive to decide. The committee thinks the notice not necessary, because none of the rights or privileges conceded by the convention to British subjects will in any manner be abrogated or abridged, but rather protected and secured by the establishment of a regular government over the territory where those rights and privileges are to be enjoyed.

If the facts stated in this review be authentic, and in their general accuracy the committee has great confidence; and if the principles of national law asserted be correct, and the deductions from those facts and principles be legitimate, and they are supported by the strong authority of Vattel, each of the titles of France, Spain, and the United States, on its own merits, is better than that of England.

The committee has thus submitted to the House the general grounds upon which the claim of the United States rests; at all events it has shown, as it is believed conclusively, that the extension of our jurisdiction over the territory is a proper consequence of the possession admitted to be in the United States by Lord Castlereagh, and that it does not infringe the stipulations of either of the conventions of 1818 or 1827.

The next subject which demands the attention of the committee is the value of the territory, in an agricultural, commercial, and political point of view. The sources of information upon these important subjects are necessarily few, derived from partial examinations of comparatively small portions of the territory. The country has been too little explored, and its resources too partially developed, to enable the committee to arrive at more satisfactory results than probable conjectures of its agricultural and commercial capabilities.

The United States exploring expedition, under the command Lieutenant Wilkes, was for some time engaged in surveying the coast adjacent to the mouth of the Colombia river, and the river itself, it is believed, as far up as Fort Vancouver. A letter from one of the officers of the expedition, which has recently appeared in the public prints, states that the Wallamette had been examined to the falls, from which point a party of the scientific corps had proceeded by land to the port of San Francisco, in Mexico. The report of Lieutenant Wilkes, based upon actual observation and surveys by competent officers, will certainly give more recent, probably more accurate, information than any now within reach of the committee, upon the several points involved in this inquiry. In the mean time, the committee presents for the consideration of the House the following geographical and statistical account, selected and abridged from the memoirs of Messrs. Wyeth, Slacum, Kelly, and Greenhow. The three former gentlemen visited the territory, and give us the results of their own observations in clear and concise narratives. As their observations were made at different periods, and their accounts prepared without concert, we may with great confidence receive and act upon those facts and opinions wherein they agree. The points of difference between them on matters of importance are very few, and these will be noted as they occur. Mr. Greenhow's memoir carries internal evidence of the diligence and fidelity with which he performed the duty assigned to him.

*Boundaries.*—The Oregon Territory is bounded on the north by the parallel of fifty-four degrees forty minutes of north latitude, on the east by the Rocky mountains, on the south by the forty-second degree of north

latitude, and on the west by the Pacific ocean. Its average breadth from east to west is about six hundred miles.

*Rivers.*—The only river of any commercial importance, and which affords a safe and commodious harbor, is the Columbia; with its branches, it traverses the whole extent of the territory, from north to south, and from east to west. The northern branch, which retains the name of the principal stream, rises in the Rocky mountains, in about latitude fifty-four degrees, and, running nearly south to about forty-nine degrees, receives Flathead or Clarke river, which, rising also in the Rocky mountains, in about forty-six degrees, runs in a general northwest direction, about three hundred miles. Thence the course of the united stream is a little south of west, about one hundred miles, to Fort Okenagan, at which point it turns nearly south, about one hundred and seventy miles, to Fort Nezperces. The direction of the river here changes nearly west, which it retains about three hundred and thirty miles, to its mouth in the Pacific ocean, in latitude forty-six degrees seventeen minutes. The southern branch is called Lewis river. It also rises in the Rocky mountains, in latitude forty-two degrees, and, running generally a northwest course, empties into the Columbia, near Fort Nezperces. The Wallamette is the only tributary of the Columbia of sufficient importance to find a place in this report. It rises in about forty-three degrees, and, running north one hundred and fifty miles, unites with the Columbia about ninety miles from the sea, nearly opposite Fort Vancouver. A bar stretches nearly across the mouth of the Columbia, from Cape Disappointment to Cape Adams. Of the danger of entering the river, various opinions have been entertained. The breakers on the bar deterred Vancouver from attempting to cross it; while Captain Gray, in the Columbia, entered without difficulty. Mr. Wyeth says: "At its mouth there is an extensive and dangerous sand bar, over which, however, there is at the shoalest five fathoms of water."

Mr. Slacum says: "The wind was high from the westward, and the bar presented a terrific appearance, breaking entirely across the channel, from the north to the south shoals. The wind blowing directly on shore, and believing it would be impossible to work off against the heavy westwardly swell, we attempted the passage at 12, M., and crossed the bar safely, in not less than five fathoms, and anchored at two o'clock in Baker's bay. I am thus particular, because the idea generally prevails that the bar of the Columbia should never be crossed when it breaks."

Mr. Greenhow says: "From each of these points a sand bar runs into the water; above which the waves of the Pacific on the one side, and the torrents of the Columbia on the other, meet with terrific violence, producing a most formidable line of breakers. These circumstances render the entrance and departure of vessels hazardous at all times, and almost impossible when the winds are high. The depth of the water between the bars is thirty feet at the lowest." In July last the United States ship Peacock was lost in attempting to cross the bar. Baker's bay is protected from the westwardly winds and waves of the ocean by Cape Disappointment. Although the Columbia river affords the only water communication from the sea into the interior of the country, it furnishes by no means the only or the best harbor. The anchorage behind Cape Disappointment is perfectly safe, but the bar at the mouth of the river presents a serious obstruction to the navigation in boisterous weather. Immediately on the strait of De Fuca, and near the ocean, is Port Discovery, represented as perfectly ac-

cessible and safe, and of a depth of water sufficient for vessels of any size. From the strait there also enters the land, in a southern direction, a large sheet of water called Admiralty inlet, penetrating about 100 miles, and terminating in Puget's sound.

Bulfinch's bay may be made a convenient and commodious harbor, and might be connected by a canal, thirty miles long, with the Columbia river at Chenook harbor.

Mr. Kelley says it would be easy to improve the entrance of the Columbia by cutting a ship channel across a narrow strip of low land from Chenook bay to a small but deep harbor which lies north of Cape Hancock. All these speculations will be set at rest by the report of Captain Wilkes.

The following extracts are from Wyeth's memoir :

"With good pilots and steam tow-boats, there would probably be little difficulty at the mouth of the river, and the navigation is good for vessels of not more than 14 feet draught to the Cascades—say about 125 statute miles. The Cascades are falls impassable, either ascending or descending, for any kind of craft ; a portage must always be made at this place. The descent is about 35 feet in three miles. From the Cascades to the Dalles is about 36 miles ; and for this space the river has a gentle current, and is of great depth and width. The Dalles are very severe rapids ; in low water passable with the best boatmen in canoes only ; but at high water they are impracticable. At this place the river rushes through a space not more than 150 feet wide, walled in with basaltic columns in an upright position. Five miles above the Dalles are the falls of the Columbia, which are impassable at low water ; but at very high water they may be passed with experienced canoe-men, both up and down. When the Columbia rises, from the melting of the mountain snows, the Dalles present so much of a barrier to their escape as to raise the water above them to a great height. I have measured from the surface of the water, when not very low, 54 feet to high water-mark, as left on the basaltic columns by some previous high water. At such times, the river between the Dalles and the falls is like a lake, and the water between them is nearly levelled up to that above. From this point to Wallawallah, (Fort Nezperces,) there are many rapids, but none impassable with good boatmen. The river probably might be used by steamboats to Kettle falls, just below Colville."

Clarke's river "in its whole course affords a hard struggle for the best boatmen, with good canoes, and is impracticable for any other kind of vessel."

"All that can be said of Lewis's river, or any of its branches, is, that it is not impassable for boats."

The Wallamette "is navigable for vessels of 12 feet draught, about 20 miles from its mouth ; it then becomes shoaler and more rapid ; but vessels drawing ten feet might ascend to within two miles of the falls, or about 25 miles from its mouth.

"The falls of this river are perpendicular, and about 22 feet ; above them steamboats might ply about 50 miles, but beside them nothing but canoes could be used.

"The water communication of the country is decidedly bad ; and I can see no mode of improving it except at an expense entirely beyond the object. The Wallamette river might be improved to a greater extent than any of the others. The falls of that river might be locked at an expense not be-



yond an object that may be conceived to exist, some few years hence, when its fertile bottoms shall be cultivated."

*Mountains.*—"The territory drained by the Columbia presents a constant succession of mountain ridges and valleys, or plains of small extent. The principal ridges are two in number, besides the Rocky mountains, running nearly parallel to each other and to the coasts; and the country is thus divided into three great regions, which differ materially in climate, soil, and productive powers. The *first region*, or *low country*, is that between the coast and the chain of mountains nearest to the sea; the *second region* is between the mountains nearest the sea and the middle ridge, called the Blue mountains; and the *third region*, or *high country*, is between the Blue mountains and the Rocky mountains. All these divisions are crossed by the Columbia, the main stream of which is formed in the middle region, by the union of several branches flowing from the Rocky mountains, and receiving in their course supplies from innumerable smaller tributaries, draining the intermediate countries."—(Greenhow.)

The chain nearest the sea is variously called the California, Klamet, and Cascade mountains, though the former is believed to be the one most generally adopted. Of the view of these mountains from the Blue ridge, Mr. Wyeth says: "The traveller going west, from the summit of this range, sees the high points of the California mountains, about one hundred and sixty miles distant, some of which rise more than 1,600 feet from the level of the Pacific. All other views of North America sink to littleness in comparison with this. From this point I have seen seven of the high points of the California range, extending from north to south. Their perfect whiteness and steep conical shape cause them to appear in the distance like huge sugar loaves.

"The distance from the coast to the foot of this chain (California) is in some places one hundred miles, in others much less. The intervening country is crossed in various directions by low ridges, connected with the principal chain, some of which run parallel to it, while others stretch towards the ocean. Between these ridges are valleys, of which the two most extensive lie immediately at the base of the great chain, and are drained by rivers flowing into the Columbia," (Greenhow); of which the southern is the Wallamette. Of the valley watered by this river we shall hereafter speak, when treating of the soil and agriculture.

"The Blue mountains extend from north to south through the whole territory of the Columbia, between the Rocky mountains and the chain which borders the coast. Their course is not so regular or clearly defined as those of the other chains; and they appear to be broken into several ridges, some of which run towards the Rocky mountains on the east, while others join the westernmost chain. These mountains are steep, rocky, generally volcanic, and some of them covered with eternal snow. They are crossed by both branches of the Columbia, which also receives several tributaries from the valleys on their western sides."—(Greenhow.)

"The Rocky mountains form the dividing ridge between the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. They are imposing objects; but the great elevation of the plains on either side detracts much from their apparent height. The higher points of the chain are covered with perpetual snow; but through them there are excellent passes, suitable for any kind of wheel carriages; and in travelling they are not a great obstruction to those who know

the proper passes. Of the Blue mountains, the passes are all of a different character; the streams are almost impassable, and the land trails are practicable only for packed animals; wheel carriages could not be used on them, and any improvement would involve an enormous expense.

"The California mountains are the greatest barrier between the Atlantic and the Pacific; it is about forty miles through them. The river is almost the only passage; in cases of absolute necessity the land trails are used, but it is with great difficulty that horses and mules pass them without any load."—(Wyeth.)

Lewis and Clarke left the forks of the Kooskooske, one of the branches of Lewis's river, in canoes, on the 7th day of October, 1805, and, descending these rivers and the Columbia, arrived at the mouth of the latter on the 14th day of November following. The navigation was in many places greatly impeded by dangerous rapids; still the whole distance was made with but a single portage, at the great falls of the Columbia. Besides these three principal ranges of mountains, there are in the south the Snowy mountains, which separate Oregon from California, and extend from the sea to the Rocky mountains. Along the coast south of the Columbia there are many detached mountains, one of which was ascended by Captain Clarke, whose account is transcribed, as it gives a vivid picture of the surrounding scenery: "We set out early, and proceeded to the top of the mountain, the highest point of which is an open spot facing the ocean. It is situated about thirty miles southeast of Cape Disappointment, and projects nearly two and a half miles into the sea. Here one of the most delightful views in nature presents itself. Immediately in front is the ocean, which breaks with fury on the coast, from the rocks of Cape Disappointment, as far as the eye can discern to the northwest, and against the highlands and irregular piles of rock which diversify the shore to the southeast. To this boisterous scene, the Columbia, with its tributary waters, widening into bays as it approaches the ocean, and studded on both sides with the Chinook and Clatsop villages, forms a charming contrast, while immediately beneath our feet are stretched the rich prairies, enlivened by three beautiful streams, which conduct the eye to small lakes at the foot of the hills."

*Climate, Soil, Agriculture.*—In the lower, middle, and higher regions, into which the country is divided by the chains of mountains which we have described, the climate, soil, and agriculture, such as it is, greatly vary. In the higher and lower regions, those at the base of the Rocky mountains, and those on the seashore, it is impossible that the climate, soil, and animal and vegetable productions, should be the same. This diversity in places nearly under the same parallel of latitude, occasioned by the difference of elevation, is one of the peculiarities and advantages of Oregon. The climate west of the Rocky mountains is greatly milder and more uniform than on the east. The capacity of the country to support a large population being, for obvious reasons, indispensable to any useful or advantageous settlements, the committee has given much attention to the climate, soil, and the results of such agricultural experiments as have yet been made, and have drawn very liberally from the sources already indicated.

The climate of the lower district, west of the California mountains, in summer, is as warm as the middle States of the Union, except that the nights are cooler. From April till October very little rain falls, and it is





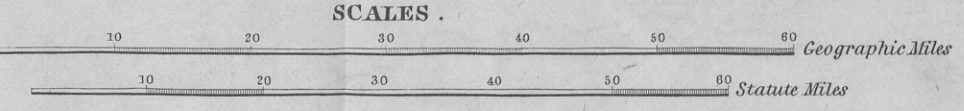
MAP  
of the  
**UNITED STATES**  
**TERRITORY OF OREGON**

West of the Rocky Mountains.  
Exhibiting the various Trading Depots or Forts  
occupied by the British Hudson Bay Company con-  
nected with the Western and northwestern Fur Trade.

Compiled in the Bureau of Topographical  
Engineers from the latest authorities under  
the direction of Col. J.J. Abert, by  
Wash. Hood.  
1838.  
M.H. Stansbury del.  
W.J. Stone Sc. Wash. D.

The prolongation of the 49th parallel of latitude from the Rocky  
Mountains to the Pacific has been assumed as the Northern Boundary  
of the U.S. possessions on the NW coast, in consequence of  
the following extract from the Hon. H. Clay's letter to Mr. Gallatin  
dated June 19th 1826. (see Doc. 199. 20th Cong. 1. sess. Ho. of R.) You are  
"then authorized to propose the amendment of the third article of the  
"Convention of 1806, and the extension of the line on the parallel or  
"49 from the eastern side of the Stony Mountains, where it now  
"terminates to the Pacific Ocean, as the permanent boundary"  
"between the territories of the two powers in that quarter. This is"  
"our ultimatum, and so you may announce it."

The Posts of the British Hudsons Bay Company are marked thus. ○





very rare to have any rain in June, July, August, and September. From October to April the rains are almost incessant. Lewis and Clarke speak of the constant rains which fell before their arrival, and during their stay at the mouth of the river. Mr. Wyeth says that ploughing can be done throughout most winters, and that, within his knowledge, there had been but one winter when the ground was frozen; and that, in the same year, during February, the average of the thermometer at sunrise was 40 degrees, and this on the same parallel with Quebec.

Mr. Prevost, the American agent for receiving the surrender, under the treaty of Ghent, says that "the climate to the southward of 53 degrees assumes a mildness unknown in the same latitude on the eastern side of the continent. The mercury during the winter seldom descends below the freezing point; when it does so, it is rarely stationary for any number of days, and the severity of the season is more determined by the quantity of water than by its congelation. The rains usually commence with November, and continue to fall partially until the latter end of March or the beginning of April. A benign spring succeeds, and, when the summer heats obtain, they are so tempered with showers as seldom to suspend vegetation. I found it luxuriant on my arrival, (October 1, 1818,) and during a fortnight's stay experienced no change of weather to retard its course."

Mr. Irving, in his *Astoria*, says: "A remarkable characteristic of the country west of the Rocky mountains is the mildness and equability of the climate. The great mountain barrier seems to divide the continent into different climates, even in the same degree of latitude. The rigorous winters and sultry summers, and all the capricious inequalities of temperature prevalent on the Atlantic side of the mountains, are but little felt on their western declivities. The country between them and the Pacific is blessed with milder and steadier temperature, resembling the climate of parallel latitudes in Europe. In the plains and valleys but little snow falls throughout the winter, and usually melts while falling. It rarely lies on the ground more than two days at a time, except on the summit of the mountains. The winters are rainy rather than cold. There is scarcely any rain throughout this time, (from March to October,) yet the face of the country is kept fresh and verdant by nightly dews and occasionally by humid fogs in the mornings. These are not considered prejudicial to health, since both the natives and the whites sleep in the open air with perfect impunity. While this equable and bland temperature prevails throughout the lower country, the peaks and ridges of the vast mountains by which it is dominated are covered with perpetual snow. This renders them discernible at a great distance, shining at times like bright summer clouds, at other times assuming the most aerial tints, and always forming brilliant and striking features in the vast landscape. The mild temperature prevalent throughout the country is attributed by some to the succession of winds from the Pacific ocean, extending from latitude 20 degrees to at least 50 degrees north. These temper the heat of summer, so in the shade no one is incommoded by perspiration. They also soften the rigors of winter, and produce such a moderation in climate that the inhabitants can wear the same dress throughout the year."

The following extract is from the journal of Mr. Spalding, who passed from the Mississippi to the mouth of the Columbia, with his wife:

"Here we were met by the warmest expressions of friendship by Dr.



McLaughlin, who conducted us immediately to his house. After a brief interview, he conducted us to his gardens; and, be assured, we were not a little surprised to see, west of the Rocky mountains, where we expected to meet scarcely the first buddings of civilization, such perfection in horticulture. About five acres are laid out in order, and stored with almost every species of vegetables, fruits, and flowers; and among them figs and citrons, oranges, lemons, pomegranates, cotton plants, and all common fruits of the United States. Every thing produces well. For some days our time was divided between visits on the farm, to the mills, the herds, the dairy, the stores, the ships in port, the school, &c. Dr. McLaughlin's farm is the largest on the Columbia river, and produced last year 4,500 bushels of wheat, 4,000 of peas, 1,700 of barley, 1,500 of oats, potatoes not gathered, corn but little. His horned cattle 750, swine 400, with from 200 to 300 horses. He has a saw mill and a flouring mill."

These extracts are taken from the report of Mr. Senator Linn, already referred to.

Mr. Wyeth informs us that this *lower region*, from the abundance of the winter rains, produces much more vegetation than the country more inland; and this, decaying and mixing with the soil, has produced a deep coat of mould, well calculated for agricultural purposes. He considers this section of the country, for farming purposes, as equal to any part of New York. In it there is a great amount of barren inaccessible land; but the water-courses, which are very numerous, afford valleys as fertile as can be found in the United States.

From the same authority, we learn that *this region* "is well calculated for wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas, potatoes, and all sorts of roots cultivated in the United States; apples succeed well, and also tobacco; Indian corn, for some reason, does not succeed well, and is an unprofitable crop. The yield of wheat, with very poor cultivation, is about fifteen bushels to the acre, and of the best quality; there is no doubt, with equal cultivation, the product per acre will equal that of the best parts of the United States. In this division horses and neat cattle succeed tolerably well; the winter being mild, enables them to subsist without other food than the open fields afford. Hogs live and multiply, but cannot be made fat on the range of the country; there are no nuts except the hazel nut; acorns are plenty, and also many roots, on which they feed; but, for stock, this part of the country is, in every respect, inferior to the Middle and Western States, except in its winter; and this may perhaps counterbalance its other disadvantages.

"The agriculture of this district must always suffer much from the extreme dryness of the summer; those products which ripen earliest sustain the least damage; but those that come late often suffer. The upland soils of this section are tolerably good; but the cost of clearing the enormous growth of timber would be much beyond its worth; but there are prairies sufficiently numerous and extensive for the cultivation of the next century, which, being chiefly on the second bottom of the rivers, are extremely fertile, and above inundation.

"The station of the American Methodist Mission, under the charge of the Rev. Jason Lee, is on the Wallamette, about sixty miles from its confluence with the Columbia. All accounts agree in representing this as the finest part of the territory. Mr. Slacum says: "I consider the Wallamette as the finest grazing country in the world. Here there are no droughts, as on

the pampas of Buenos Ayres or the plains of California; whilst the lands abound with richer grasses, both in winter and summer. In 1818, the Hudson's Bay Company had one bull and two cows; last year they salted 70, and have now upwards of 1,000 head of neat cattle from this stock. The low grounds of the Columbia overflow, and the highlands are covered with timber of great size, which would require immense labor in clearing. Fort Vancouver is the only spot, from Fort George upwards, where a farm of any size could be opened."

Mr. Kelley says: "In beauty of scenery, fertility of soil, and other natural advantages, no portion of our country surpasses that which is found upon the Wallamette. The whole valley of this river abounds in white oak and other valuable timber. Fringes of trees grow along the margin of the stream; and back of these are rich bottom lands, or prairie ground, of inexhaustible fertility, and adorned with all the wealth of vegetation. From these prairies, which are sometimes a few rods and sometimes several miles wide, often rise round isolated hills heavily wooded, and presenting a lovely contrast to the sea of grasses and flowers from which they spring."

Mr. Kelley saw at Vancouver a large and splendid barn, in which was a threshing machine that cost \$1,500, and was worked by oxen. Connected with the same farming establishment he also saw more than 1,000 head of neat cattle, and flocks of sheep, and swine, and horses, and domestic fowls of various kinds. Twelve thousand bushels of wheat remained in the sheaf at the time he left Vancouver, in the spring.

We close our account of this *lower region* with the following beautiful description, from the pen of Mr. Kelley:

"The town of Vancouver, as I have stated, stands on a high and healthy spot. I might with propriety dwell for a moment on its picturesque and beautiful landscape. Directly back of the village the ground rises considerably, forming a kind of steppe or plateau, from which the prospect is one of the loveliest upon which the eye ever rested, diversified by all that is wild, rugged, and sublime, in forest and mountain scenery, or soft and smiling in lowland and meadow, river and plain; all that the bounty of Nature and the skill of man combined can furnish to surprise or delight the eye and the taste of the beholder. In the distance, yet looking as though within reach, are the snowy peaks of the Rocky mountains, whose frosty mantle defies the hottest sun of summer. Nearer at hand is a vast ocean of forest, variegated with every hue known to the foliage of trees, whether deciduous or evergreen. At your feet are a thousand appearances of industry, wealth, and prosperity; and before you are the valleys, both of the Wallamette and Columbia, spreading and winding afar, and almost wearying the eye with countless varieties of aspect and innumerable forms of loveliness."

The *middle region* may not be inappropriately termed the temperate zone of Oregon. More elevated than the *low country*, and more remote from the sea, it is also more dry, the wet season being of shorter duration, and the rains of less frequency and violence. "The climate, during the summer, is universally represented as most agreeable and salubrious; the days are warm and the nights cool; but the want of moisture in the air prevents the contrast of temperature from being injurious to the health." (Greenhow.)

The soil of this region is good, though less fertile than in the one already described, owing to the small mixture of vegetable matter. Timber is very scarce, and of the most inferior quality.

Wyeth represents the northern part of this district, in the neighborhood of Colville, as well adapted to the various grains and vegetables. He adds, however, "I think the agriculture of this district must always be limited to the wants of a pastoral people, and to the immediate vicinity of the streams and mountains; and irrigation must be resorted to, if a large population is to be supported in it. This district, which affords little prospect for the tiller of the soil, is perhaps one of the best grazing countries in the world. It has been much underrated by travellers, who have only passed by the Columbia; the land along which is a mere collection of sand and rocks, and almost without vegetation. But a few miles from the Columbia, towards the hills and mountains, the prairies open wide, covered with a low grass of a most nutritious kind, which remains good throughout the year. In September there are slight rains, at which times the grass starts; and in October and November there is a good coat of green grass, which remains so until the ensuing summer; and about June it is ripe in the lower plains, and, drying without being wet, is like made hay. In this state it remains until the autumn rains again revive it. The herdsman, in this extensive valley of more than one hundred and fifty miles in width, could at all times keep his animals in good grass, by approaching the mountains in summer, on the declivities of which almost any climate may be had; and the dry grass of the country is at all times excellent. It is in this section of the country that all the horses are reared for the supply of the Indians and traders in the interior. It is not uncommon for one Indian to own several hundreds of them. I think this section, for producing hides, tallow, and beef, is superior to any part of North America. There is no question that sheep might be raised to any extent, in a climate so dry, and sufficiently warm, where very little snow or rain falls. It is also, I think, the healthiest country I have ever been in."

The *high region* between the Blue and Rocky mountains presents few attractions, either to the farmer or grazier. The proportion of land with even tolerable soil is very small. The drought of the whole year, except during a few days in the spring, is excessive; and the consequent absence of moisture will, for many years, if not forever, render abortive any attempts at extensive cultivation.

Mr. Slacum thinks that the valleys of the rivers within this territory, exclusive of the Wallamette and Columbia, contain "14,000,000 of acres of land of first quality, equal to the best lands of Missouri or Illinois."

*Timber.*—The committee has in vain examined every source of information within its reach, for any satisfactory account of the timber of Oregon. It is said that the *low country* is well supplied with oak; and Captain Lewis enumerates seven species of fir, one of which, he says, grows to an immense size, commonly twenty-seven feet in circumference, many of them thirty-six feet, and one they measured forty-two feet in circumference. This one was three hundred feet in height, though usually they did not rise higher than two hundred to two hundred and thirty feet.

Martin, in his History of the British Colonies, says: "From the period of their junction (Lewis and Columbia rivers) the country presents nothing but a succession of plains; lower down rapid currents and cascades are met with; after which, the river flows in a smooth and tranquil stream, through a charming and fertile valley, shaded by lofty forest trees, intersected by small lagoons, and possessing a soil capable of every kind of cultivation. The trees are remarkable for the greatest beauty, and for rising

sometimes to a height of three hundred feet, with a girth of forty-five; and many of the forest timbers tower two hundred feet before they branch."

*Animals.*—We have already seen that the domestic animals carried into the territory by the whites thrive remarkably well; and, requiring no provision for the winter, are supported at very inconsiderable expense. The only native animals which have been domesticated by the Indians are the horse and dog. The *middle region* is the one in which horses are raised in the greatest numbers, and of the highest excellence. Lewis describes them as being an excellent race, lofty, elegantly formed, active and durable, like fine English coursers, and resembling, in fleetness and bottom, as well as in form and color, the best blooded horses of Virginia. Horses are also said to be found wild in many parts of the country.

Among the wild animals are the brown, white, and black bear, several varieties of deer, elk, wolf, tiger cat, foxes, antelope, *sheep, beaver, common otter, sea otter, mink, seal*, every species of squirrel, panther, hare, rabbit, polecat, &c.

"The sheep," say Lewis and Clarke, "is found in many places, but mostly in the timbered parts of the Rocky mountains. We have only seen the skins of these animals, which the natives dress with the wool, and the blankets which they manufacture from the wool. The animal, from this evidence, appears to be of the size of our common sheep, of a white color; the wool is fine on many parts of the body, but in length not equal to that of our domestic sheep."

The beaver of Oregon is large and fat, and its flesh is considered very palatable food. To what extent the destruction of this animal has been carried in the country south of the Columbia cannot be ascertained; but that it has been very great, the indiscriminate slaughter, without reference to age, size, and condition, clearly proves. The Hudson's Bay Company, within their own territories, have the strictest regulations for the preservation of the beaver, not permitting the same district to be hunted too many years in succession, or out of the proper season; but in our territory, as if determined to extract from it all the gain they can before abandoning their claim, all these salutary precautions are neglected, and the Indians are encouraged to hunt at all seasons of every year. If some immediate and effectual measures are not taken to arrest this process, the value of our possessions will be greatly reduced by the extermination of this useful animal. The sea otter resides only on the seacoast, or in the neighborhood of the salt water. He grows to the size of a large mastiff dog, and is unrivalled for the beauty, richness, and softness of his fur.

Lewis and Clarke found the following birds: the grouse, or prairie hen, the cock of the plains, four kinds of pheasants, buzzard, robin, bat, crow, hawk, blackbird, owl, turtle dove, magpie, woodpecker, lark, snipe, and the calamutt eagle.

The aquatic birds are the heron, fishing hawk, kingfisher, gull, cormorant, loon, three kinds of brant, duckinmallard, canvass back, red-headed fishing duck, the black and white duck, little brown duck, black duck, two species of divers, and blue-winged teal, geese, and swans. The canvass back of the Columbia is pronounced to be as fine as that of the Susquehanna.

The fish are the whale, porpoise, skate, flounder, salmon, red char, two species of salmon trout, mountain or speckled trout, bottlenose, anchovy, and sturgeon.



The salmon of Oregon are represented by Mr. Wyeth to be extremely numerous, "of several sorts, all equal and some superior to those of the United States."

Except the few Americans and natives collected at the several Methodist missionary stations, and a few farming establishments, this whole extent of country, and all its inhabitants, Indian and European, are under the absolute government and control of the British Hudson's Bay Company. That the power and influence of this company, submitting to no control but its own will, and governed by no motive but its own interest, is also felt by the American settlers, there can be no doubt. The citizens and subjects of the two countries, under the provisions of the conventions of 1818 and 1827, have equal rights to participate in all the advantages of the territory; but in these remote regions, far beyond the reach of the immediate protection of the American Government, what avails American right against the overwhelming and irresponsible power of this association? The concurring accounts of all travellers bear testimony to the uniform urbanity and kindness with which they are treated by the servants of the company. At the same time; they speak of the ever-vigilant jealousy with which they regard every inquiry into the condition and resources of the country, and their prompt and successful hostility to every attempt, by American citizens, to establish posts for *trading* purposes. The missionaries, whose successful labors will rather add to than detract from the gains of the company, enjoy their countenance and protection. But let Mr. Lee open a store at his settlement on the Wallamette, and invite the Indians to a traffic in peltries, and he would immediately find a rival from Vancouver, with directions to undersell and overbid, till the new establishment is abandoned or ruined. Several instances of such obstacles to American trade are enumerated in the works already referred to.

No individual, no matter what may be his enterprise or capital, can enter into successful competition with the Hudson's Bay Company. They are the actual masters of the country; and, utterly disregarding the acknowledged possession of the American Government, treat American citizens as aliens and intruders.

This state of things, alike incompatible with the honor of the American Government, destructive of the interests of American citizens, and portentous of future danger to our title, has already been too long acquiesced in. Every consideration which touches the sensibilities of an independent nation demands that it shall no longer exist. Let us no longer submit to the humiliating admission that there is a portion of American territory where American citizens are out of the power of their own Government, and under that of a foreign company. If the right be against us, let us frankly and promptly make the admission. But if the object be worth contending for, and the right be with us, as, in the opinion of the committee, both are, we should no longer delay its assertion.

The committee will now advert to the trade, commerce, and navigation of the United States, in the Pacific ocean and its coasts, all of which will be greatly benefited, if they do not absolutely require a depot for repairs and supplies, to be located somewhere on the territory of the United States. Where that place shall be, whether on the Columbia river, or at Bulfinch harbor, or Port Discovery, must be referred to the decision of future surveys and explorations.

## TRADE, COMMERCE, NAVIGATION.

Mr. Baylies says : " The fur trade and the whale fishery are the great nursery of seamen. A fur voyage generally continues three years ; a whaling voyage on the North Pacific never less than two. In these long voyages, the habits of landmen are accommodated to the ocean, and a certainty and precision in nautical knowledge and seamanship, and hardihood and intrepidity, and a habit of self-reliance, are acquired, which enables them to encounter, successfully, all the perils of the element on which they live, and elevates them to the summit of professional excellence. They visit every clime, they encompass the world. Not like the humble stipendiaries too often seen in the European and West India trade, reckless of the interest of their employers, and anxious only to secure their monthly wages, the sailors who visit these remote seas are the partners of merchants—they share the profits as well as the losses of the voyage, and they are sure of receiving, eventually, an elevation in command proportionate to their merit and exertions. The great but undeveloped capacities of this region on the Northwest coast, for trade, must be obvious to every one who inspects the map.

" A vast river, with its tributaries and branches, waters its whole extent through seven degrees of latitude, and even penetrates beyond, into the territories of other nations. It abounds in excellent timber, and in spars equal to those of New Zealand, unsurpassed by any in the world. Its waters are navigable for vessels through half its extent, and for boats (saving a few short portages) through half the remainder.

" The water power for moving manufacturing machinery is unequalled, and commences where the navigation terminates. It is bounded on the south by a country which abounds in cattle and wheat—the two great sources of subsistence for a new colony, and which can be reached by sea in less than ten days ; in the vicinity, too, of other countries, whose interior is filled with the precious metals and with the richest articles of commerce, and whose shores abound in the pearl-producing oyster. It is within twenty or thirty days' sail of the coasts of Peru and Chili, which stretch in a long, narrow line along the ocean, indented with fine bays and harbors, which countries would necessarily become commercial, were they not destitute of all the materials for ship building. Of course, they must depend on the country which can supply those materials at the cheapest rate. It is within seventy or eighty days' sail of China and the East India seas, and within thirty of the Sandwich Islands, (the West Indies of the Pacific,) abounding in sandal wood, in the sugar cane, in tropical fruits, and perfectly adapted to the culture of coffee and cotton.

" On one side it approaches a country where coal, in prodigious quantities, has already been discovered, and on the other the borders of a sea which, for a space of seventy-six degrees, is seldom ruffled by a storm, and which, in all probability, can be traversed in every direction by steamboats."

The probability of that day is the certainty of this. Every part of the Atlantic is now navigated by vessels propelled by steam, which requires nothing but the discovery of coal of sufficient quantity and quality, and in convenient positions, to be extended to every part of the Pacific. When this shall be the case, the value of the trade indicated by Mr. Baylies will be vastly increased, by diminishing at least one-half the time consumed in performing the voyages. England, too, will, ere long, have permanently established herself on some of the islands on the eastern coast of China, and

then, with the exception of this continent from Hudson's bay to the Pacific, by her lines of steamers, she will circumnavigate the globe.

Rumors are now very rife, of negotiations pending between England and Mexico, for a transfer, either absolute or conditional, of California; and Mr. Pierce, in his letter, to be found in the appendix, asserts that the Hudson's Bay Company have now a trading establishment at San Francisco, and are making arrangements for others all along that coast. Should the British Government or the Hudson's Bay Company take possession of the Sandwich Islands, and exclude, as they would certainly have the power and probably the inclination to do, our ships from the supplies which those islands furnish, a depot at the mouth of the Columbia river, or in the vicinity, would become indispensable to the prosecution of our large and valuable trade in the Pacific ocean.

The difficulty, danger, and delay, hitherto encountered in crossing the bar at the mouth of the Columbia, would be entirely removed by the application of steam tow-boats, such as are now used on the Mississippi. The communication, too, by land, across the continent, will require a very short time, when the country shall be fully explored, and the passes known and opened between the highest navigable points on the Columbia and Missouri rivers. The miracles which the power of steam has already wrought will exempt from extravagance almost any speculations upon this subject in which the imagination may indulge. There can be little doubt that, in a few years, one month will suffice to inform the proprietor at New Bedford or Nantucket of the success of his voyage, and of the amount and value of the cargo, which it will require five months to transport round Cape Horn. The prediction, twenty years since, of what we now realize, of the ease and expedition with which our vast territory is traversed in every direction, would have been pronounced the dreams of the wildest enthusiasm. It is the duty of the statesman to ponder these things, and to give them their full effect in the arrangement of his plans and measures for the future.

Some idea of the value of our trade in the Pacific may be formed from the following tables:

*Extract of a letter from Robert Greenhow, Esq.*

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1842.

SIR: Agreeably to your request, I send you a sheet containing a recapitulation of the consular returns of American vessels arriving and departing from the Sandwich Islands during the interval between April, 1839, and January of the present year, which will serve to show the vast importance of those islands to our navigation, trade, and fishery in the North Pacific ocean. I have added some loose details, which will explain more particularly the nature of our proceedings in that part of the world.

*Recapitulation of consular returns of American vessels arriving at and departing from the port of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, during the intervals here mentioned.*

	1839.		1840.		1841.	
	April 16 to July 1.	July 1 to Dec. 31.	January 1 to July 1.	July 1 to Dec. 31.	January 1 to July 1.	July 1 to Decemb. 31.
No. of ships -	14	33	13	26	19	28
No. of barques -	1	-	-	4	2	6
No. of brigs -	2	4	1	2	3	3
No. of schooners -	-	1	1	-	-	2
Amount of tonnage	5,800	12,432	4,548	10,718	8,009	12,531
No. of seamen in- ward -	319	901	286	740	608	918
Value of cargoes inward -	\$399,300	\$1,006,800	\$514,000	\$1,065,600	\$585,500	\$1,655,000
Value of cargoes landed -	138,000	72,000	159,000	76,850	222,000	247,250
Value of cargoes outward -	261,300	1,033,100	359,000	1,055,250	376,500	1,532,750
No. of seamen out- ward -	435	879	244	750	601	910

By far the greater number of these vessels are from Nantucket and New Bedford; the others are for the most part from Bristol, Newport, and Boston; the remainder belong to Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Fairhaven, Edgartown, Salem, Dorchester, Dartmouth, New London, and Wiscasset. Nearly all are employed in the whale fishery; some in the hide and tallow trade from California; others in the fur trade from the Columbia and Russian establishments.

The consular returns contain all the above-mentioned particulars with regard to each vessel, together with her name; the dates of her arrival and departure, the general nature of her cargo; the place from which she last came, and that to which she is directly bound. A small number of the vessels are noted as arriving and departing more than once. On examining the returns from other ports in the same ocean, it appears that in no one of them does so large a number of American vessels enter annually as in Honolulu, (or Honoruru,) the chief port of the Sandwich Islands, situated in the island of Oahu, or Wahoo.

ROBERT GREENHOW.

Hon. N. G. PENDLETON,  
*of the House of Representatives.*

*Abstract of vessels employed in the whale fishery, belonging to the United States, October 1, 1841, taken from the New Bedford Directory of that year.*

Ships and barques -	-	-	-	-	-	553
Brigs and schooners	-	-	-	-	-	74
Total	-	-	-	-	-	627
Amount of tonnage -	-	-	-	-	-	188,032



From the same source we take the following statement of the amount of importation of sperm and whale oil and whalebone into the United States, for the years 1839, 1840, and to the 31st July for the year 1841.

## IMPORTATIONS.

*For 1839.*

Sperm oil	-	-	142,336 bbls.	-	-	\$4,662,927 36
Whale oil	-	-	229,733 bbls.	-	-	2,496,623 38
Whalebone	-	-	2,297,339 lbs.	-	-	436,492 70
						<hr/>
						7,596,043 44

*For 1840.*

Sperm oil	-	-	-	157,791 bbls.	-	-	\$5,007,694 63
Whale oil	-	-	-	207,908 bbls.	-	-	2,013,848 86
Whalebone	-	-	-	2,079,080 lbs.	-	-	405,420 60
							7,426,964 09

*For 1841, to 31st July.*

Sperm oil	-	-	-	106,527 bbls.	-	-	\$3,020,040	45
Whale oil	-	-	-	164,440 bbls.	-	-	1,605,756	60
Whalebone	-	-	-	1,644,400 lbs.	-	-	320,658	00
							4,946,455	05

The exports of sperm and whale oil from the United States were as follows:

*For 1838.*

Sperm oil -	-	-	166,805 galls.	-	-	- \$137,809
Whale oil -	-	-	4,824,376 galls.	-	-	- 1,556,775
						<hr/> 1,694,584

*For 1839.*

Sperm oil -	-	-	86,047 galls.	-	-	-	\$85,015
Whale oil -	-	-	1,482,908 galls.	-	-	-	515,484
							<hr/> 600,499

*For 1840.*

Sperm oil -	-	-	434,608 galls.	-	-	- \$430,490
Whale oil -	-	-	4,520,878 galls.	-	-	- 1,404,984
						<u>1,835,474</u>

The exports of whalebone and spermaceti candles from the United States were as follows:

*For 1838.*

Whalebone	-	-	1,634,570 lbs.	-	-	-	\$321,458
Sperm candles	-	-	1,074,569 lbs.	-	-	-	340,531
							<u>661,989</u>

*For 1839.*

Whalebone	-	-	1,445,098 lbs.	-	-	-	\$288,790
Sperm candles	-	-	466,896 lbs.	-	-	-	178,142
							<u>466,932</u>

*For 1840.*

Whalebone	-	-	1,892,259 lbs.	-	-	-	\$310,379
Sperm candles	-	-	853,938 lbs.	-	-	-	332,353
							<u>642,732</u>

From the proceedings of the national convention for the protection of American interests, convened in the city of New York, April 6th, 1841, we extract the following:

## REPORT ON WHALE FISHERY,

*Brought in by James Arnold, of Massachusetts.*

The committee appointed on the subject of the whale fishery report: That from tabular schedules, accurately kept at New Bedford, your committee estimate the whole number of vessels employed in the whale fishery at 650, tonnage 193,000 tons, and manned by 16,000 officers and men. Of these vessels we estimate that 360 are employed in the spermaceti, and the remainder 290 vessels in the common whale fishery.

To outfit and equip these vessels on each voyage which they perform, among other materials are the following:

1,300,000 barrels of iron-hooped casks, worth \$1 40 per barrel, which amounts to	-	-	-	\$1,820,000
To make those casks will require 7,554,000 staves, at \$62 per thousand	-	-	\$474,672	
5,223 tons of iron hoops, at \$100 per ton	-	-	522,300	
4,564,000 feet of Southern pine heading, at \$25 per thousand	-	-	114,100	
Coopers labor making 1,300,000 barrel casks	-	-	708,928	
				<u>1,820,000</u>
127,000 barrels of beef and pork, estimated value for the last ten years, \$10 per barrel	-	-	1,270,000	
106,800 barrels flour, at \$6	-	-	640,800	
32,500 bushels of corn, average price for ten years, 70 cents	-	-	22,750	
6,500 bushels of beans, at \$1 25	-	-	8,125	
1,306,000 pounds manufactured tobacco, at 11 cents	-	-	143,000	
1,300 try pots, at \$60	-	-	78,000	
				<u>2,162,675</u>

650,000 pounds of rice, at \$3 per 100 pounds	\$49,500	
65,000 bushels of potatoes, at 35 cents	-	22,750
325,000 pounds cheese, at 8 cents	-	26,000
325,000 pounds of butter, at 17 cents	-	55,250
312,000 pounds of dried apples, at 4 cents	-	12,480
3,900 barrels of vinegar, at \$3	-	12,480
6,500 barrels of tar, at \$2 25	-	14,650
3,250 whale boats, at \$60	-	195,000
2,600 sets of oars, (6 oars to each set,) at \$10	-	26,000
300,000 feet of pine boards, at \$20 per 1,000	-	60,000
		<hr/>
		\$474,110
4,330,000 pounds of sheathing copper and nails, at 24 cents	-	1,009,200
3,000,000 yards of domestic cotton and prints, at 10 cents	-	300,000
Estimated amount paid for labor of carpenters, caulkers, riggers, block and sail makers	-	1,248,000
Blacksmiths' bill for stock and work	-	291,000
Clothing for the men and slops for the voyage, including 63,400 pairs of shoes	-	1,704,000
6,210,000 pounds cordage and tow lines, at 12 cents	-	745,200
Of this sum, 4 cents per pound, or one-third, goes for labor of the rope maker at home, say \$248,400.		
24,480 pieces of heavy foreign duck, at \$19	-	471,960
14,800 pieces of light duck, at \$9	-	133,200
592,000 gallons of molasses, (average price for ten years,) at 25 cents	-	148,000
		<hr/>
		6,080,560
404,000 pounds of sugar, at 8 cents	-	32,320
404,000 pounds of coffee (average ten years) at 10 cents	-	40,400
		<hr/>
		72,720
		<hr/>
		10,610,060

The labor and material hereinbefore estimated is for ordinary outfit, and not for plank, timber, copper and iron fastening, or labor of mechanics and others, where ships require what is termed repairs; which, as is well known, occurs after a few years, more or less, according to the quality of the vessels, and which, when occurring, involves an expenditure from near the cost of a new ship down to \$1,000 each.

We estimate the whole value of the ships and outfits, as they sail, at \$20,120,000; the length of voyages on vessels in the sperm fishery at three years, and on the right whale ships at twenty months.

The proceeds or imports from the fishery in 1841 were of  
 spermaceti oil, 5,012,076 gallons, worth 95 cents per gallon \$4,767,172  
 Of right whale oil, 6,531,462 gallons, at 33½ cts. - \$2,177,154  
 Of whalebone, 2,073,480 pounds, at 20 cents - 416,696

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2,591,850  


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\$7,359,022  


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The foregoing estimate of the agricultural and other supplies consumed in the prosecution of our whale fishery is confined to the voyages at sea only; but if we take into view the consumption occasioned by it at home, by the numerous class of men whom this branch of industry sustains, in managing all departments of the business, and connected with it in all its branches and effects, the mechanics, laborers, coasters, and other persons occupied in carrying its products to the home and to the foreign market, and again returning the supplies which it needs, your committee feel confident that they speak within bounds when they say that, as relates to many items of the statement, the amount may be quadrupled; thus making the aggregate consumption of the products of our soil simply \$11,011,028, and some other products, and the item of labor somewhat in proportion.

## FURS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Register's Office, May 21, 1842.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose the statement of furs exported to Canton. I have the export in the direct trade, and the general trade as far as returns have been made.

JAMES McCLERY.

Hon. N. G. PENDLETON.

*Value of furs exported to Canton on American account annually, from 1821 to 1840.*

Years.	Direct trade.	General trade.	Remarks.
1821 - - -	\$142,399	\$340,991	
1822 - - -	78,158	490,081	
1823 - - -	100,910	319,231	
1824 - - -	89,939	269,449	
1825 - - -	33,130	270,445	
1826 - - -	45,110	258,235	
1827 - - -	100,986	256,809	
1828 - - -	101,764	-	No return.
1829 - - -	80,180	-	Do
1830 - - -	10,306	-	Do
1831 - - -	42,396	-	Do
1832 - - -	129,570	-	Do
1833 - - -	109,695	133,085	
1834 - - -	8,383	100,348	
1835 - - -	49,964	134,518	
1836 - - -	34,888	100,000	Estimated.
1837 - - -	561	96,102	
1838 - - -	37,864	54,832	
1839 - - -	16,794	40,000	Estimated.
1840 - - -	2,368	-	No return.

This table, exhibiting a gradually diminishing trade in furs, from the period that the hunting and trading of British subjects in Oregon was authorized by the convention of 1818, is the best commentary upon the



principles and provisions of that convention. Individual disinterestedness or generosity may surrender to general participation the advantages and privileges of an exclusive right; but the wiser, safer, and more general rule of national action is in every grant to demand an equivalent. The convention of 1818 was a departure from this salutary rule, and its consequences we read in the above table—the uncompensated transfer to the Hudson's Bay Company of all that trade which our own citizens have lost. This simple statement affords a lesson by which we shall do well to profit in time, before our own indifference, forbearance, and neglect, shall render utterly worthless the object for which we have so long contended. If the successful and beneficial assertion of our right shall ever be made, it must be made now. Further acquiescence in the exclusive possession of the Hudson's Bay Company, (for north of the Columbia, it is in fact exclusive,) if not an absolute surrender of our claim, is what is almost equivalent to it, an abandonment of the game, which constitutes its principal value, to the annihilation of thriftless hunting and indiscriminate slaughter.

From six to eight hundred men annually go to the Rocky mountains, on hunting and trading expeditions, who collect a large amount of furs, the value of which, however, the committee has no means of ascertaining with any degree of accuracy. This trade would greatly and rapidly increase under the protection which the contemplated posts will afford.

The following correspondence is so full upon the particulars to which it refers, as to render unnecessary any comments by the committee:

WASHINGTON, *January 10, 1842.*

SIR: So much of the President's message as relates to military affairs, and the report of the Secretary of War, were referred by the House of Representatives to the Committee on Military Affairs. That part of your report which relates to the establishment of a "chain of military posts extending from the Council Bluffs to the mouth of the Columbia" has, by order of said committee, been referred to me.

I am anxious to learn the measures you may think necessary to give effect to your recommendation, and have obtained the authority of the Military Committee, to request that you will furnish me, as soon as may be convenient, your plans, in detail, specifying particularly the number of posts, and their location; the number of men at each post; whether for this purpose any increase of the army is contemplated; the expense of erecting the proposed works, and the annual expense of maintaining their garrisons; and such other information as you may think important to communicate.

I have the honor to be, &c.

N. G. PENDLETON.

HON. J. C. SPENCER, *Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 10, 1842.*

SIR: After having at last found leisure, from the pressure of other business that seemed to require more immediate attention, to examine the various reports that have been prepared in reference to the proposed military posts at the mouth of the Columbia river and at other intervening points, I now submit them to you, with such views as the occasion seems to require.

By perusing Colonel Abert's two reports, of January 15 and February 3, you will perceive the plan of operations suggested by him.

In the main I concur with him, and particularly in the idea that, for the present, a post at some proper point on the Missouri, and another at the mouth of the Columbia, would be all that should be undertaken, until we have more full and precise information on the subject. The establishment of the post on the Missouri would enable us to feel our way to the Rocky mountains, and fix the location of the necessary intervening posts to the best advantage and with the greatest economy. You will perceive that this post would not cause any important additional expense, except that incurred in supplying it with provisions and military stores, and the transportation of men.

The estimates of the cost of a fort at the mouth of the Columbia, and of maintaining it, are given in the accompanying papers.

If two regiments be added to the army, as recommended by the Department, they can be employed, together with a portion of the force ordered from Florida, in garrisoning the forts on the maritime frontier, and the posts on the Western and Northern frontiers, where, under any circumstances, they are indispensable.

The number of rank and file yet to be recruited to complete the force of the army authorized by law, and amounting to about 1,200, might be enlisted with reference to their employment in Oregon; and if the inducement be held out to them of a quarter section of land on the expiration of their term of service, it is believed that the requisite number would soon be obtained. A corps of guides and scouts, of say fifty men, would be all the additional force necessary for the peculiar service of the military posts proposed.

The proposed addition of two regiments should not be charged exclusively to the plan of establishing a communication with the Columbia river. The necessity of such an augmentation of our military strength is believed to be shown by other considerations, which are urged in the last annual report of this Department.

According to the estimates herewith submitted, an appropriation for the first year, for the establishment of the proposed posts, and maintaining them, would be required, to the amount of \$112,060, without including the additional regiments. The expense of transportation and various contingencies cannot be accurately estimated, in reference to an enterprise so novel in its character; and I would therefore recommend that an appropriation of at least \$200,000 be made for the establishment of a military post at the mouth of the Columbia river, and of another at such point east of the Rocky mountains as the President may direct; and for the employment of a company of not more than fifty scouts and guides.

The papers now communicated enter so fully into the subject as to render superfluous any further observations on my part, especially to a committee so competent to decide on the whole matter. Any further information or aid, within the power of the Department, will be most cheerfully rendered.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. SPENCER.

Hon. N. G. PENDLETON,

*Member of the Military Committee, H. R.*

## BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS,

*Washington, January 15, 1842.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your direction to report upon as much of the letter of the honorable Mr. Pendleton, of the 10th instant, in reference to a "chain of posts extending from the Council Bluffs to the mouth of the Columbia," as relates to the number of posts, the strength of each, and whether or not they will require an augmentation of the army.

The two extremes of the chain being given, (namely, Council Bluffs and the Columbia river,) my views become necessarily limited to the consideration of the requisite intermediate stations, in number, localities, and strength.

From the conditions of the question, the line must cross the Rocky mountains. The passes of these mountains become, then, from their locality, a central position, and an important and governing feature in reference to the location of the intermediate posts. The position of these passes, and their character, have therefore to be considered.

We have no survey of these passes. The best information on the subject, in the possession of the bureau, consists in a topographical sketch and report from the late Captain Hood, of the corps. In 1839, this officer, being on duty west of the State of Missouri, was directed to bestow his attention on the passes of these mountains, by collecting the best information which could be obtained from travellers, hunters, and others, who had been there. The results of his investigations were imbodyed in the sketch and report just alluded to. Although these are not results of actual survey, yet, from the sound judgment of Captain Hood in such matters, and the critical tests to which his sketch or plan was exposed, I have no doubt of its accuracy generally, if not in all of its details.

From this sketch and report, it appears that the points of departure, on the eastern side of the mountains, within the jurisdiction of the United States, of all the passes across, are situated in the vicinity of the Black Hills, and between the 43d and 45th parallels of latitude; and that among these passes across the mountains, there is one, and probably but one, sufficiently gradual in its ascents and descents, and sufficiently open, to admit of the passage of wheel carriages, and, consequently, of the ready construction of a convenient and good road. This pass goes through an opening in the Black Hills, at about forty-four degrees thirty minutes of north latitude, and, keeping between these hills and "Big Horn mountain," it crosses the tributaries of the Yellow Stone from the south, and finally the Yellow Stone itself. It then crosses the Missouri, or rather the three forks of that river, a short distance above their junction; from whence it pursues a south-westwardly direction, until arriving at the headwaters of "Bitter Root" river; thence down the valley of this river to its junction with the "Salmon or Lewis's river;" and thence down the valley of this last river to its junction with the Columbia.

From these facts, then, the vicinity of the Black Hills has to be attained, in order to cross the Rocky mountains from the east; and the best passage of these mountains, at present known, is the one just described.

This vicinity is, by our maps, about 650 miles in a northwestwardly course from the position of Council Bluffs. But, from Council Bluffs, the course of the Missouri, by the latest and most authentic observations, is also northwestwardly, and for about 300 miles nearly parallel to the direction from the Bluffs to the Black Hills. The Missouri, therefore, would afford water transportation for about 300 miles of this route; also, as none of the

streams which empty into the Missouri from the west, within the limits under consideration, can be considered navigable streams, no advantage can be taken of them for the chain of posts west.

The post which is the point of departure for the inland chain of posts will have to be considered as the point d'appui of the chain, and must, if possible, be situated on some navigable stream. The Missouri is fortunately such a stream, extending its course in the most favorable direction, and admitting of steamboat navigation as high up, and much higher than is necessary for the purposes contemplated.

From these circumstances, therefore, the Missouri river will have to be considered as the eastern basis of the contemplated chain of posts; and, as a necessary consequence, the highest point of the Missouri conveniently situated for the continuation of the line across the mountains presents itself as the true point for the first intermediate post above Council Bluffs, and for the eastern point d'appui of the line.

In our present imperfect knowledge of the country, it would be difficult to state the exact locality of this point; but, on reference to sources highly deserving of confidence, I am disposed to place it between White river and the great bend of the Missouri. A position in this neighborhood would possess all those advantages, in reference to supplies, which a navigable river could afford; would greatly reduce the land transportation to the mountains; would be in a healthy and wooded region; would be at a point most convenient for the extension of the chain of posts across the mountains; and, as the Territory of Iowa is rapidly filling with white settlers, would be at a point sufficiently removed in the heart of the Indian country to have a controlling influence over the Indians. Its position also, on the Missouri, would give to it a controlling and desirable influence over the tribes east as well as west of that river, which could not possibly be the case, even if it could with propriety be placed, and were it so, upon any of the tributaries of the Missouri from the west.

But wherever on the river it may be placed, the upper post on the Missouri will have to be considered, as it will be in fact, the eastern point d'appui of the chain. It will therefore have to be well supplied with munitions of war and with provisions; of sufficient strength to command the respect of the numerous and warlike tribes of its vicinity, and to operate as a moral as well as physical protection to the settlements south of it; will have to be strong enough to defend itself against any probable attack, and to be able to make detachments and exploring expeditions, for the purpose of examining the country or of succoring hunting parties.

These reflections make Council Bluffs an interior post, at which a small garrison will be sufficient, and the upper post on the Missouri as the great point d'appui of the line, which will have to be well fortified and strongly garrisoned. They also indicate but one intermediate post between Council Bluffs and the Rocky mountains. In my judgment, there should be but one such post at present, which should be located in conformity with the considerations stated, and be as strong as recommended. From this post detachments should be made, to examine the country between the Missouri and Rocky mountains, and through the same, for the purpose of determining the positions for additional posts, which could be established at any future day, as suitable positions were ascertained.

The country and its resources are too imperfectly known to determine upon these positions now, and the good or evil consequences of a judicious



or erroneous arrangement of the chain are too important to decide upon such a measure by hazard.

Council Bluffs, being then an interior post, need not be so strongly garrisoned. The present garrison at Fort Leavenworth, removed to the Bluffs, will probably be sufficient. There will certainly be no necessity for keeping up these two positions, with the strong post above; and for the post above, I am clearly of the opinion that it should be garrisoned by at least 500 effective foot and two companies of dragoons.

In reference to that part of the line which lies between the mouth of the Columbia and the Rocky mountains, I am again obliged to acknowledge a want of that exact information which would justify the designation of localities for posts. It is highly probable that some of the positions on this river, now adopted as forts for traders and hunters, will be found the best for military purposes; but it would not be safe to designate them as such, without an examination of the country similar to that recommended for the region between the Rocky mountains and the Missouri.

Under these circumstances my further remarks will necessarily be confined to the western point d'appui of the chain, which will undoubtedly have to be within the vicinity of the mouth of the Columbia.

A strong post there would protect the commerce of the Pacific, command as a consequence of its position the river line, and by the exploring detachments which it should be able to make, would collect that necessary and exact knowledge of the interior upon which sites for a chain of posts to the Rocky mountains could be judiciously selected.

For all the objects of a garrison at this place, I am clearly of the opinion that the force should not be less than 500 effective foot and two companies of dragoons.

From the foregoing it will be perceived that my views on the subject limit themselves, for the present, to the occupation of two principal positions and one secondary. The principal positions are the one highest upon the Missouri and the one at the mouth of the Columbia; the secondary is the one at Council Bluffs.

For the defence of these, I stated it as necessary to have an effective force of 1,000 foot and four companies of dragoons. The dragoons can be obtained by detachments from either of the two regiments already authorized; the foot will have to be obtained by an augmentation of the army, and should be formed of artillery and infantry.

The aggregate of a regiment of artillery, officers and men, according to our laws, is	-	-	-	-	-	755
That of a regiment of infantry	-	-	-	-	-	937

Making a total, of officers and men, of	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1,692</u>
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But the organization is never full. Reluctance to enlist, sickness, accidents, desertions, imprisonments, and punishments, always keep the legal organization a mere nominal quantity, and reduce the effective force proportionally. These causes have usually kept the effective force of our army from one-third to one-half below the legal organization. I believe at no time has the reduction from them been as small as one-third. Taking one-third, however, as a rule, an increase of one regiment of artillery and one of infantry would give an effective force of 1,128, officers and men. It would therefore be necessary to augment the army, for the purposes stated, with one regiment of artillery and one of infantry.

It would add much to the efficiency of these commands, if the commanding officer of each of the two principal positions named were allowed to enrol about fifty of the class of trappers, known as "American trappers," for scouts, guides, and hunters. These will be found to be highly valuable, and even necessary auxiliaries with all exploring expeditions, as well from their knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, as from their ability to act as interpreters, and the reliance which can be placed upon their allegiance. The objects in contemplation are great, and the means to accomplish them ought to be of a character to render success probable; otherwise it might be more judicious to delay the attempt. Feeble posts would hazard the moral ascendancy of the Government over the Indians, if not lose it; would require, instead of being able to yield, protection; would be incapable to detach for exploring purposes or for other posts; and, from their very feebleness, would probably eventuate in lamentable disaster and future and great expenditures.

In such distant and isolated commands, there are reflections which should be made, because essential to the well being of the service. Men cannot live alone in such communities without becoming discontented, if not grossly irregular. The soldiers should therefore be encouraged to take wives with them, and the provisions of the law should be more liberal than they now are in allowing rations to soldiers' wives, and their children under certain ages.

This matter has been too much neglected in all our distant posts, and its neglect has been, in my opinion, a fruitful cause of irregularities and desertions. If the soldier had a family with him, he would be more contented and better behaved; and, when his term of enlistment expired, he would probably become a settler in the neighborhood of the post, and in that way a valuable population would be gradually accumulated on the frontier, of men accustomed to the use of arms and to discipline.

I would also respectfully suggest the propriety of attaching a chaplain to each of these principal posts. If it were only to secure to garrisons so remote, and to their dependents, the Christian rites of marriage, baptism, and burial, it seems to me that such appointments would be necessary. But when we couple with these considerations the many other important consequences following from appointments of this kind, judiciously filled, their necessity is beyond doubt.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. J. ABERT,

*Col. Corps Top. Engineers.*

Hon. J. C. SPENCER, *Secretary of War.*

BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS,

*Washington, February 3, 1842.*

SIR: In compliance with your further direction, I have the honor to submit the following estimate, in accordance with the views of the report of the 15th ult.

The fort on the Missouri is intended as a defence against Indians; to furnish shelter for such inhabitants of the vicinity as may seek its protection in times of danger; to protect its stores of ammunition, clothing, and provision, and to furnish comfortable quarters for the garrison. To effect these objects, it should therefore cover more ground than is usually allowed for

the numbers who will occupy it, and for its defences need not be other than a stockaded work, with block-house flank defences. Its position should be one that will command the river, and its shape will necessarily have to partake of the ground it will have to occupy. But a quadrangular form, with block-house flank defences at two or more of its angles, will probably be found the most convenient and as efficient as any other. There should be an interior open space, for the mustering, inspecting, and drilling of the troops. This space should be surrounded by the quarters, barracks, and stabling; the whole should be enclosed by a strong stockade, with its block-house flank defences, which stockade should not be nearer than thirty feet of the exterior line of barracks, quarters, and stables. One side of the quadrangle (or the centre of it, if the enclosure be extensive) could be occupied by a citadel block-house, as a magazine and place of deposit for the public stores. This, if on a side, should of course be on the one least exposed to attack. Around the whole stockade a ditch should be excavated, in which the sinks of the garrison could be established. The plane of the enclosure should be made to drain into this ditch, and the ditch adapted to drain into the river. Two wells should be sunk inside the garrison, and be supplied with pumps. From the stockade, for about 1,000 feet in every direction, the ground should be cleared of all its timber. This should be cultivated by the garrison in grain and garden stuffs, and part of it should be devoted to a gymnasium—exercise being as necessary to bodily health and content of mind as wholesome food.

The space between the stockade and the buildings will afford room for the stations and movements of the troops in its defence. The barracks and quarters will form an interior line, should an accident happen to parts of the stockade; and the open space beyond the stockade would prevent the approach of an enemy under cover. Within this space no buildings should be erected or Indians be allowed to encamp. It should be enclosed by a fence, and be cultivated as advised. The whole of this space should be considered as part of the fort, and be placed under martial law.

In the first instance, the whole of the buildings will have to be log huts, to be gradually substituted by better prepared materials, for which purpose a saw mill should be erected in the vicinity as soon as practicable; or it may be found advantageous to substitute cast iron barracks, agreeably to a plan recommended for the British troops in the West Indies, as the most economical, from their great endurance, adaptation to removal, and freedom from accident by fires. The roof of the flank defence block-houses should be adapted to the manœuvre of a howitzer, and the garrison be well supplied with war rockets—a formidable defence against Indians.

Clapboards, for roofing, can be made by the troops, or will have to be taken up with them, which could be conveniently done, as the quantity would not be great. It might also be the most economical course to take up plank for flooring. As the mechanical and manual labor would be done by the troops, the principal items of expense would be the clapboards, plank, glass for windows, spikes, nails, hinges, and tools, and the extra pay allowed to soldiers on such duty, which is about 18 cents per day.

The advantages of the plan are, that the whole work of establishing the post will be within the mechanical skill of the troops; that it will afford an adequate defence, and can be put in a state of defence and the troops comfortably housed in one season; and that the cost will probably not exceed fifteen thousand dollars.

But if the troops should not be allowed to work as advised, and mechanics and laborers should have to be taken from St. Louis, this item of the estimate will have to be vastly increased. I am fully aware that many officers are of opinion that troops should not be employed on such works. I think the opinion unfortunate. There is nothing in such duties unworthy of the soldier, and much in them which fits him for the emergencies he may have to meet, which increases his professional efficiency, and which, by its employment, adds to his moral and physical happiness. The discretion of the commanding officer, a state of quietness or of hostilities, will of course govern the extent of details for such duties. But as well might it be objected that the soldier should not repair breaches or accidents to the stockade or barracks, in time of attack, as that he should not learn the way of making those repairs promptly and well. The building of these gives to him this knowledge, and increases his ability to defend his post. But more particularly is such knowledge required at posts remote from settlements, and where, of necessity, a garrison should possess within itself all the resources required for its defence, health, and comfort.

For purposes of a regular communication with the upper posts, and a regular transmission of supplies, the Government should own at least two steamboats—one to ply between St. Louis and Fort Leavenworth, the other between the latter place and the upper post. As the distance between Fort Leavenworth and the great bend of the Missouri is about 800 miles, if we suppose the navigation open for about six months of the year, such an arrangement of the boats will assuredly admit of four trips between these two posts in a year. It is not considered safe to navigate this part of the river with steamboats except by daylight, and I have allowed a month for a trip, up and down, and two months for delays in the four trips, from all causes.

These two boats will probably cost \$50,000. Their average annual repairs and outfits may be stated at \$7,000.

An officer of the army would be a proper commander for each boat, with a non-commissioned officer and ten men as a guard. In addition to these, there should be attached to each boat two pilots, one engine manager and one assistant, and four firemen. Supposing the engine manager to receive \$75 per month, his assistant \$50, each pilot \$50 per month, and each fireman \$30, it will make the annual expense on these accounts, for each boat, \$4,140, and for the two boats, \$8,280. For the subsistence of these (except the firemen) I will suppose an average of \$15 per month, and for each fireman \$10, which will amount, for the two boats, in a year, to \$2,400. These two last items make an amount of \$10,680 for the pay and subsistence of the persons it may be necessary to hire.

But as there is a part of the year in which these boats have to be laid up, requiring only the guard, if we suppose this period equal to one-third of the year, it will reduce this last amount to \$7,120.

These boats appear to me an essential accessory in the establishing of the upper post, as the only means, for some years, of ensuring regular communication with the post, and a regular transmission of supplies; and, as they would render unnecessary any other mode of transportation, they would, in this way, in a few years, save to the Government their cost.

There are other annual supplies requisite, such as pay to officers and men, clothing, and provisions. These are, however, not incidental to the position, but consequent upon the augmentation; and, on the supposition of the Government owning the two steamboats recommended, would be no



more at the upper post on the Missouri than at St. Louis. This last observation, however, will apply only to that post. The supplies for the post at the mouth of the Columbia will probably, in the first instance, have to be sent there by sea. But the Columbia river abounds with the finest fish; the small settlement now in that vicinity has already breadstuffs and meat to spare; and, from the protection which a fort would afford, I have no doubt settlements would soon and so rapidly increase that provisions for the garrison, and for the commerce of the Pacific, will in a short time be obtained there on as good terms as in other parts of the United States.

Condensing these views in the form of an estimate, and availing myself (in conformity with your suggestion) of estimates from other bureaus, the following will be the result:

A regiment of artillery consists (according to its legal organization) of seven hundred and fifty-five officers and men; a regiment of infantry of nine hundred and thirty-seven.

Items				
1.	Pay, &c. of the two regiments	-	-	\$224,474
2.	Provisions, on the supposition of 100 extra rations daily for women and children—one-half at St. Louis prices and one-half at New York prices—total 1,900 rations per day	-	-	102,600
3.	Clothing for the two regiments	-	-	48,480
4.	First construction of the post on the Missouri	-	-	15,000
5.	Ordnance and ammunition for the same	-	-	6,500
6.	First transportation of the troops and military supplies from St. Louis to the upper post on the Missouri	-	-	12,500
7.	First year's expenditure on account of the construction of the fort at the mouth of the Columbia	-	-	50,000
8.	Ordnance and ammunition for the same	-	-	44,988
9.	First transportation of troops, armament, and supplies, from New York to the mouth of the Columbia	-	-	50,000
10.	Two steamboats for the Missouri	-	-	50,000
11.	Pilots, enginemen, firemen, &c., for the same	-	-	7,120

Making a total of - - - - - 611,662

But from the foregoing amount the following deductions may with propriety be made: 25 per cent. from items 1, 2, and 3, on the supposition that the regiments will be to that extent short of their legal organization—25 per cent. from items 1, 2, and 3 - - - - - \$93,889

Items 5 and 8, because these supplies are now in store 51,488

Item 6, on the supposition that the two steamboats will be ready in time - - - - - 12,500

Total to be deducted - - - - - 157,877

Leaving, for the probable cost of first establishing the two posts, an amount of - - - - - 453,785

Item No. 9, of \$50,000, may also be saved by using the navy to transport the troops and supplies from New York to the mouth of the Columbia.

If but one Government steamboat should be procured, the cost

of it can be deducted, but it will involve the necessity of hired transportation. The deductions from these causes would amount to - - - - -

\$78,060

Ultimate total - - - - -

375,725

The posts being established, the next consideration is the probable annual expense in maintaining them.

1. Items 1, 2, and 3, with the deduction of 25 per cent.	-	\$281,665
2. Repairs and amendment of the fort on the Missouri	-	3,000
3. Continuation of the construction of the fort at the mouth of the Columbia	- - - - -	50,000
4. Repairs, outfit, and hired persons for (suppose) one Government steamboat	- - - - -	7,060
		<u>341,725</u>

It is supposed that, after the first year, supplies of provisions will be obtained on the Columbia. It is also supposed that clothing for the troops will be taken by Government vessels. Also, when the fort is completed, item 3 of the above estimate will no longer be required, which will reduce the annual expenditure, on account of these posts, to -

291,725

The conclusions from the foregoing estimates are:

1st. That the army can be augmented by two additional regiments, and the posts in question established by present appropriations, which need not exceed - - -

375,725

2d. That, after the fort at the mouth of the Columbia shall have been completed, the probable annual expenditure will be - - - - -

291,725

The employment of a number of trappers, as scouts, guides, and hunters, with exploring parties, is not provided for in the foregoing estimates. Supposing the number to be limited to fifty, and that the expense, all things included, would not exceed one dollar per man per day, it will increase both of the last two results by an amount of \$18,000 per year, or, in other words, make the first - - - and the second - - -

393,725

309,725

Your directions to me also were, to determine the probable expense of establishing the two posts, on the two following suppositions:

1st. That of an augmentation of the army, by the increase of one regiment of infantry.

2d. On no augmentation, but on the supposition of detaching a regiment from the existing army.

Treating the first of these suppositions, it will reduce the estimate by the amount of the pay, rations, and clothing, of a regiment of artillery. This, with the deduction, as before, of 25 per cent. for number below legal organization, will amount to \$120,833; which, applied to the last two items, will reduce the first to - - - and the second to - - -

272,892

188,892

Treating the second of these suppositions, it will reduce the estimate by the amount of the pay, rations, and clothing, for

the two additional regiments, amounting to \$281,665. Then applying this reduction, as in the former case, those items will be reduced, the first to - - - - - 112,060 the second to - - - - - 28,060

It should not be lost sight of, however, that in each of these several cases of probable annual expenditures, after the first establishment of the posts, the annual expenditure for the fort at the mouth of the Columbia until the same is completed has been omitted. The minimum estimate for this fort, made by the chief of the corps of engineers in charge of the fortifications, is \$300,000, which, divided equally, would extend through six years; or, as \$50,000 for this purpose has been involved in the estimate for the first establishing the post, it will require \$50,000 for five succeeding years.

The following is a summary of the foregoing:

1. First establishment of the posts, on the supposition of an augmentation of two regiments - - - - - 393,725  
 Probable annual expense for five years, including the cost of the fort at the mouth of the Columbia - - - - - 359,725
2. First establishment of the posts, on the supposition of an augmentation of one regiment - - - - - 272,892  
 Probable annual expense for five years, including for the fort as before - - - - - 238,892
3. First establishment of the posts, on the supposition of no augmentation of the army, but of employing an existing regiment of infantry - - - - - 112,060  
 Probable annual expense for five years, including for the fort as before - - - - - 78,060

Respectfully submitted, by your obedient servant,

J. J. ABERT,  
*Col. Corps Top. Engineers.*

Hon. J. C. SPENCER,  
*Secretary of War.*

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, January 19, 1842.*

SIR: A letter to the Secretary of War, from the Hon. N. G. Pendleton, has been referred to this office, with the following endorsement: "*Engineer corps, for estimate of a permanent post, at the mouth of the Columbia, for 800 or 1,000 men.*"

The very remote situation of such a post, the wilderness state of the surrounding country, and the character of the indigenous inhabitants, involve certain indispensable conditions, namely: 1st, the military works must be too strong to be carried by escalade, and must be easily secured against surprise; 2d, they must be competent to resist a protracted siege, or a still more protracted blockade; 3d, there must be capacity and means to give shelter and support, at moments of peril, to the surrounding colonists, at least during the infancy of the colony, besides affording room for the whole Government establishment.

These conditions demand, in other words, strength and large accommodation. Failing in either would bring, not injury, but destruction upon the enterprise. And both these elements involve expense, of which the limits must, however, vary greatly with local circumstances. These cir-

circumstances will act in two ways: first, they will affect the prices of materials and labor, and, secondly, they will affect the form and dimensions of the fortification; and on both we are in perfect ignorance.

It may be estimated, however, that the whole cost of such a permanent work as will be necessary, including barracks and other accommodations, may reach the sum of \$300,000, and even, under unfavorable circumstances, the sum of \$500,000. The works may be completed in from two to ten years, according to the number of persons employed. But a great saving of expense will accrue from relying entirely on the troops for labor, organizing the portion sent to that point with express reference to that operation. The extent to which the labor of the military is to be resorted to in procuring and preparing material, as well as in the execution of work, depending on the nature of the military organization and the rate of influx of private colonists, the amount of any such saving cannot be stated; it may vary from a small to a large proportion of the sum otherwise necessary.

The rate of expenditure should, of course, depend on the urgency of the work. The first year, unless there be reason for haste, may be occupied with the expenditure of \$50,000.

Preliminary to actual occupation, a commission should be sent, with instructions to select and actually survey the sites for occupation and defence. With information thus gained, the military works may be planned in a short time, the project being got ready by the time the troops are prepared to move.

A less systematic procedure will afford results not to be relied on, and also incur greater expense.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient,

J. G. TOTTEN,

*Colonel and Chief Engineer.*

HON. JOHN C. SPENCER, *Secretary of War.*

*Estimate of the annual expense of two regiments—one of artillery and one of infantry.*

For a regiment of artillery:

Pay	-	-	-	-	-	\$88,332
Subsistence of officers	-	-	-	-	-	16,133
Forage	-	-	-	-	-	1,152
Clothing of servants	-	-	-	-	-	1,380
						<u>\$106,997</u>

For a regiment of infantry:

Pay	-	-	-	-	-	98,820
Subsistence of officers	-	-	-	-	-	12,483
Forage	-	-	-	-	-	1,152
Clothing of servants	-	-	-	-	-	1,080
						<u>113,535</u>
For extra rations to officers commanding double ration posts	-	-	-	-	-	3,942
						<u>224,474</u>

N. TOWSON, *P. M. G.*

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, *January 21, 1842.*



## OFFICE OF COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,

Washington, January 24, 1842.

SIR: In answer to a call from the War Department, I have the honor to report—

1. That, for the subsistence of 1,000 men during one year, there will be required (say) 400,000 rations, costing in New York	-	\$48,000
Transportation to Columbia river	-	29,000
Probable cost of subsisting 1,000 men, at settlement on Columbia river, during one year	-	77,000
2. For the subsistence of 800 men during one year there will be required (say) 320,000 rations, costing at St. Louis, Missouri	-	\$48,000
Transportation to a point 300 miles above Council Bluffs, Missouri river	-	9,750
Probable cost of subsisting 800 men, above Council Bluffs, on Missouri river, for one year	-	\$57,750

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. GIBSON, C. G. S.

Hon. J. C. SPENCER, Secretary of War.

JANUARY 27, 1842.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your very proper questions, I would just say, I entertain no fears in keeping five or six hundred men constantly supplied with bread and meat stuffs, should timely notice be given to secure them.

Timber abounds in good quality, contiguous, and easy of access.

Stone in abundance at hand. Am not certain as to limestone of a good quality, short of Wallamette; nor is this material, as the Wallamette is a tributary stream. Clay on the Columbia, likewise on the Wallamette; so far as tested, best for bricks on the Wallamette.

Very few good mechanics in wood, and none in stone.

Very respectfully,

Col. ABERT.

ELIJAH WHITE.

*Probable cost of the following stores:*

20 24-pounder guns, mounted complete	-	\$13,000
10 18-pounder do	-	5,000
10 12-pounder do	-	4,000
2 10-inch siege mortars	-	500
2 8-inch do	-	300
4 3½-inch heavy howitzers, (bronze)	-	3,429
6 cohorns	-	600
2 field batteries, complete	-	15,259
Probable annual consumption of ammunition for practice, salutes, waste, (per 6-pounder gun)	-	95
Cost per 1,000, of musket ball cartridges	-	11
Average waste and consumption of ball cartridges per 100 men per annum	-	110
Cost of 100 war rockets	-	250
100 rounds of grape shot for each of the 5½-inch howitzers	-	800

## A BILL to establish two additional military posts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause to be established two additional military posts: one at some suitable point on the Missouri river, west of the meridian of Council Bluffs, or at some other point in the most direct practicable line of communication between the United States and the Pacific ocean, at or near the mouth of the Columbia river; the other of the said military posts shall be established at or near the mouth of the Columbia river; that the President of the United States shall cause to be constructed at each of the said posts a fort, or such other defensive work as the nature of the service may require, with the necessary quarters, store-houses, arsenals, and magazines, for the comfort of the troops and the security of the public property.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ such portion of the army of the United States as he may deem necessary, not exceeding fourteen hundred men, to garrison the said forts, and for the defence of the persons and property of the citizens of the United States in their vicinity; and that the President of the United States be further authorized to employ such portion of the navy of the United States as he may deem to be necessary, to transport to the mouth of the Columbia river the garrison, stores, and armament, &c., intended for the post there to be established.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That at each of the posts aforesaid, in lieu of the spirit portion of the ration, there shall be allowed and issued its equivalent in value in tea or coffee; and that, for the term of five years after the establishment of the said posts, each married woman living at the post, and whose husband is serving in the garrison, shall be allowed one ration per day, if she shall so long remain with her husband at said post; and that the soldiers serving at said posts, having children under the age of fifteen years, shall be allowed such number of extra rations, not exceeding two, as the commanding officer of such post shall, from time to time, in writing, direct.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or persons shall sell or cause to be sold spirituous liquor to any soldier or other person serving in the said garrison, or belonging to or residing at either of the said posts, or to any Indian within the territory of the United States west of the meridian of Council Bluffs, he, she, or they, may be arrested by the order of the commanding officer of the said posts, or either of them, and carried before some magistrate of the Territory, or of some adjoining State or Territory, who shall proceed summarily to hear and try the charge, and, upon conviction, he, she, or they, may be sentenced to pay a fine for each offence not exceeding fifty dollars, or to imprisonment or solitary confinement not exceeding ninety days.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be allowed to each non-commissioned officer and soldier, who shall have faithfully served at either of the posts aforesaid during the period of his enlistment, and shall have been honorably discharged, three hundred and twenty acres of land, to be selected in such manner and out of such lands of the United States, west of the said meridian of Council Bluffs, as shall hereafter be designated by law.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That to each of the posts aforesaid there shall be assigned one chaplain, who, in addition to the peculiar duties of his office, shall act as schoolmaster, under such rules and regulations as the commanding officer of each of said posts shall in writing prescribe.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ a company, not exceeding fifty men, at an expense not exceeding one dollar per day, to act as guides and scouts, and to perform such other services as may be required of them; that the said company shall be assigned to each of the said posts, in such proportions as the President may direct; and during the time of their service they shall be subject to the rules and articles of war.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That, for the purpose aforesaid, there shall be, and hereby is, appropriated, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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## APPENDIX.

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*Extracts from the journal of Captain Spaulding, of the ship Lausanne, in the year 1841.*

Fort Vancouver is situated on the north side of the Columbia river, about ninety miles from Cape Disappointment, on a beautiful plain about one-fourth of a mile from the river. The stockade forms a quadrangle, and contains about twelve buildings, including warehouses, mechanics' shops, dwelling-houses, &c., in the centre of which is the house, &c., occupied by Dr. McLaughlin, chief agent for the Hudson's Bay Company, and who has charge of all their affairs in this part of the territory. He is a gentleman of pleasing address, possessing great urbanity of manners and unbounded hospitality, opening his house to all strangers who can furnish any recommendations, or who have any claim, as men of character, upon his hospitality; even the trappers, and other desperate men from the Rocky mountains and from California, are not turned away, but are provided for outside the fort. Indeed, I received every civility, not only from the doctor, but from all the Hudson's Bay Company's servants, especially from Mr. Barrit, in charge of Astoria, or Fort George, who kindly came on board at Baker's bay, and piloted the ship to the fort, (14 miles,) and supplied all my large company with every refreshment the place afforded; also sent on board the best Indian pilot on the river; but, not even satisfied with this, he kindly accompanied me himself to Gray's bay, the most difficult part of the river, where I found the Hudson's Bay Company's ship Columbia waiting a wind to pass Tongue Point channel. Captain Humphries, of the Columbia, came on board, and rendered me every assistance in his power, and sent his first officer, Mr. Letty, up with me to Pillar rock, about fourteen miles from Gray's bay. The next morning, after getting under way, I was hailed by a canoe, which I found had been despatched by Dr. McLaughlin, who, hearing of my arrival, immediately sent on board the best pilot at the fort, to assist me, sending also a large tub of fresh butter, and a bag of fresh bread. This civility and attention can only be appreciated when I state that I had no chart of the river that I could run

ten miles by without getting aground ; and that, out of the company's service, there is no chart of the river of any value. That of Mr. Slacum is very good for the bar, but of no value afterwards. Arrowsmith's is of no use whatever.

On my arrival abreast Fort Vancouver, about 6 o'clock in the evening, I found the doctor on the bank, ready to receive us. He immediately came on board, and invited all the ship's company, fifty-four in number, to take tea with him at the fort ; I, with four of my passengers, accepted the invitation. The next day all the ship's company were provided with comfortable quarters and an abundant table at the fort ; and this hospitality was continued till they were sent to their several destinations. One of the peculiar traits of the doctor's character is, that he never tires in his benevolent acts. This I was told by those who have been intimate with him for years ; and, so far as my experience goes, I can truly confirm all that was told me ; for, while at Vancouver, I received from him every civility, and his kind offices followed me all the way down the river, and even out over the bar.

The doctor has been very successful in the introduction of domestic animals. He first brought a few cattle over land from California ; and, as he seldom has any slaughtered, they have now increased to about seven thousand in seven years. He has also introduced sheep, some of which are of the finest species of the merino and Saxony breeds. I saw a flock of a thousand at Vancouver, the finest and fattest I think I ever saw. He has about two thousand at Vancouver, and thinks Oregon peculiarly adapted for growing wool. He has also a large garden adjoining the fort, containing about four acres, filled with the choicest fruit, viz : apples, pears, plums, cherries, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, &c., and vegetables of almost every description. Green peas were procured in abundance from his garden the 14th of June.

Mr. McDowell, in charge of the company's fort at Fort Colville, on the north branch of the Columbia, about six hundred miles above Vancouver, has also a fine farm. He sowed, last year, two hundred bushels of wheat.

The river and all its branches are literally alive with salmon, in the summer months, which ascend to the very fountain head. The company take about one thousand barrels per annum ; three hundred barrels of which the doctor gives away every winter, to keep the Indians alive. I have no doubt that ten thousand barrels of salmon might be taken from the Columbia and its branches, without at all diminishing the stock, independent of what is required for the support of the Indians. Salmon constitute their principal food, and no doubt ten thousand barrels are annually taken by them. Indeed, the whole Northwest coast, from the Columbia river to 60 degrees, has every river and brook that is deep enough for a salmon to enter filled in the summer season. A gentleman, whose veracity is undoubted, told me that he had seen Frazier's river, in Puget's sound, for miles, so filled with them, the water being about three feet deep, that you could not step without actually treading on them. The salmon of the north, however, are not so large, fat, or fine, as those of the Columbia river ; for those taken from this river are, no doubt, the best in the world. Some of them will weigh fifty pounds ; the average weight is about eighteen to twenty pounds.

I have in the foregoing remarks endeavored to give some account of individuals connected with the Hudson's Bay Company. I will make one



remark more, and then give a brief description of the company itself, at least of their present standing and policy. Dr. McLaughlin has a large school established at the fort, on the manual labor system or plan. He admits every orphan, or poor destitute child; feeds and clothes them, and employs an instructor, who takes them under his particular charge, and eats, sleeps, and works with them.

They work about half the day, studying a part; and, as a pastime, he appropriates a small piece of land for a garden to each boy, to cultivate according to his peculiar taste, the proceeds of which are exclusively appropriated to his own use. They receive instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, as also in sacred music. I attended their examination, and a more interesting group I never saw: twenty-two in number between eight and thirteen years of age, gathered up any where and every where, all well clothed, cheerful, healthy, and happy. Many of them could write and read exceedingly well; and they sang several hymns better than I ever heard an equal number of children in the United States. Thus this good man is doing much to promote the comfort and happiness, to instruct in a judicious way, to civilize, christianize, and prepare the rising generation to provide for and take care of themselves. This is entirely separate and distinct from the labors of the missionaries.

The Hudson's Bay Company has an exclusive monopoly of all the fur trade north of the United States, from Hudson's bay on one side to the Pacific and Russian settlements on the other; and have a very large number of employees, who traverse this immense region in every direction, having posts or stations all over the same; indeed, they have spread a complete net work throughout the length and breadth of the country. As they have the fur trade entirely in their own hands, they husband their resources, and only bring out an average quantity of furs each year; and when they become scarce at any one post, they remove from there, so as to give the beaver and other furs time to resuscitate. The company consists of eighty numbers, or shares; eight of the stockholders reside in England, and the others in the Oregon country. Each chief agent, and agents of each individual post, are shareholders.

The fur trade is entirely monopolized by this company; but, not content with this, they are turning their attention to every other branch of business. For instance, they have taken possession of almost every eligible spot in Oregon where there is a water power, or a good site for factories; they have selected out the finest sites for farms; they have erected mills—both saw and flour mills—with the view of supplying the Sandwich Islands market with lumber and flour, and the Russians at the north with flour and butter from their farms; they are, in fact, grasping at every thing. They are now about establishing a post at the islands, as also in California; and a Mr. Simpson has been sent to both these places, to effect this object; their intention being to monopolize the entire trade of both places, for the sale of English goods, lumber, flour, butter, &c.; and unless our Government insist on our just rights, and drive them out of the Columbia, they will certainly succeed in driving all the American commerce from both the islands and California, as they have already done from the Northwest coast. Their resources are immense, and their ambition unbounded.

But, would they confine themselves to the region north of the United States, we should have less reason to complain, notwithstanding they are using our own just means—means that properly belong to the people of

the United States, to annihilate our trade in the Pacific; while upon the land they are cutting the best timber, and improving the best soil in Oregon, besides having arrogated to themselves the almost exclusive occupation of Columbia river. Nor does the selfish grasping at all this satisfy them; for they annually send a large party through the acknowledged territory of the United States, to California, to trap beaver and kill sea otter; while, in passing through the country, they commit every depredation upon the poor defenceless and peaceful Indians living within the defined and acknowledged jurisdiction of the United States, actually murdering hundreds of them every year; for, in passing through the country of the two tribes, extending from the Umbiquas, in about  $44^{\circ}$  north, to the Chester or Spanish Valley, in  $42^{\circ} 50'$ , they make it a point instantly, and without the slightest provocation, to shoot down every Indian they see.

Their trapping party this last year consisted of about seventy men, under Le Fremboiz, (notorious for murdering the Indians above referred to;) they brought in an average quantity of two hundred and sixty beaver to each man, all caught within our territory, say eighteen thousand two hundred beaver, worth five dollars each; making the sum total, or full value of the skins, worth \$91,000, all or nearly all taken "south" of the Columbia and "north" of California. Besides the murders and depredations above alluded to, I was informed, upon the best authority, that there is among them a leader by the name of John McKey, and one by the name of Tumen, who are distinguished for their cruelties, barbarities, and murders among the Indians, as also are the notorious McCloud and Ewing Young; and these outrages are rendered more criminal and cruel from the fact that these two tribes of Indians were very friendly, and performed many kind offices for the whites. As an example, I may state that, in 1832, a small party of five men, in the employ of the company, were returning from their trappings in the southern part of Oregon territory, on the river Sacramento, who lost their horses; and, being compelled to winter among the Indians, (the Climath and Chester Valley Indians,) were treated by them with the greatest hospitality and kindness; but the following winter the notorious Tumen went through their district with the company trappers, committing all sorts of inhuman depredations, and marking every step of his way with violence, blood, and murder. Since then, as would naturally be supposed, they have been at enmity with the whites. That these irresponsible servants and agents of this monopolizing British company should be suffered thus to murder, destroy, and rob these Indians, and enrich themselves, through the neglect of our Government, whose duty it is to protect these poor, defenceless, weak, and wretched beings, is what no man, as it seems to me, who has the blood of an American coursing in his veins, can or ought tamely to submit to. Is it not high time that our Government, after so long a delay, should arouse itself to the protection of its own interests in Oregon? For, if it sleep but a little longer, that valuable territory is certainly lost to us forever. Give the English only the north part of Columbia river; let them plant ten guns upon Cape Disappointment, and all the navies in the world could not take the command of the river from them.

The Cape and Tongue point are two perfect "Gibaltars," on the Columbia; and the Hudson's Bay Company have already taken possession of the latter, as they have also of every other eligible spot on the Columbia.

At present, the company cultivate about three thousand acres of land, and raise about eighteen thousand bushels of wheat, fourteen thousand

bushels of potatoes, three thousand bushels of peas, and have both flour and saw mills. They have seven thousand head of cattle, two thousand sheep, hogs, &c., and have engaged to supply the Russians with eight thousand bushels of wheat, annually, and I do not know how many thousand pounds of butter, at 6*d.* sterling per pound.

They have a large number of men in their employ, four ships, two schooners, and a steamboat. They have several forts on the south side of the Columbia, and take out of the river probably not less than *five hundred thousand dollars* in value per annum, while our Government remains perfectly passive and unconcerned. I must confess, when I saw all this, I felt ashamed that I was an American. I am convinced that not another nation under heaven would submit to it, or could be so negligent of the interests of its people. The company have all the cattle, sheep, &c.; but will not sell to a settler a single cow or a sheep; they will, I believe, sometimes sell a pig, but nothing *else alive*, not even a horse—nothing that breathes. They have now contracted to supply the Russians at Sitka, and all the northern parts, with goods of all kinds that the Russians require, at *twenty-five per cent.* advance on the London invoice, to be delivered at the ports where they are wanted, without charge for freight or expense of any kind; thus driving the Americans off the coast.

It is also well understood that they purpose taking possession of the Sandwich Islands, which the British Government claim under an old grant from *Tamaahmaah*.

There is too good reason to believe (indeed the opinion is prevalent at Oregon) that the grasping ambition of the British will not with all this be satisfied, but that they intend to add even *California* to their possessions; meaning and intending thereby to obtain possession of the bay of San Francisco, which is decidedly the best place on the whole west coast of America for a naval depot, and where the combined navies of the whole world could anchor with perfect safety, being accessible, at all times, for vessels of any draught of water.

The colony from the United States is situated on the Wallamette, a branch of the Columbia, about ninety miles from the mouth of the river, which is undoubtedly the finest grazing and wheat country in Oregon. At present it consists of about seventy families, who raise considerable grain, and have about three thousand head of cattle. The mission last year raised one thousand bushels of wheat, and made butter, cheese, &c., enough for their own use. They have five hundred head of cattle and two hundred horses; and last year they sowed four hundred bushels of wheat, one hundred and twenty bushels of peas, and planted a large quantity of potatoes and vegetables of all descriptions. They have hogs, poultry, &c., in abundance. Last year they raised over fifteen hundred bushels of potatoes.

The extent of the country comprising the Wallamette valley is about three hundred miles long and two hundred broad, interspersed with ravines of wood, generally of sufficient quantities for fuel and fencing. The land, in its natural state, is usually ready for the plough, and is very fertile, producing from twenty-five to forty bushels of wheat to the acre; and the climate is so mild that the cattle subsist in the fields without fodder or shelter of any kind being prepared or provided for them through the winter. Salmon can be taken at Wallamette falls, (which, however, the British have taken possession of, and compelled our people to build their mills at the falls above,) with little trouble, from May to September, in almost any



quantity. I have no hesitation in saying that ten thousand barrels might be taken per annum. Probably no place in the world offers greater inducements to emigrants. Provisions might readily be procured to support one thousand emigrants, at any time.

Flour was this season high, in consequence of a want of mills—a difficulty that is now obviated by the erection of two new ones, viz: one by Mr. McKey, and one by the mission; as also two saw mills. Wheat is nominally worth \$1 per bushel, beef 6 cents per pound, pork 10 cents, cows \$50 each, oxen \$60, horses \$35; potatoes being about 25 cents per bushel. Labor is worth about \$35 per month, the laborer being found by his employer.

Our colony is located above the principal falls, which are situated about 40 miles from the mouth of the Wallamette. The British having taken possession of these falls, our people were obliged to make their settlement further up the river.

The following brief account of the successful cultivation of three or four farms, belonging to individuals in the American colony, will show, conclusively, the productiveness of the soil in Oregon, and the advantages to be derived from an attention to agricultural pursuits. Mr. McL——, in connexion with Mr. McN——, has the best cultivated farm on the Wallamette. Last season he built a fine house, sowed 90 bushels of wheat, a large quantity of peas, and planted several acres of potatoes; he has now 40 head of cattle, 50 good hogs, besides other stock; and has cleared, annually, since he brought his farm under cultivation, upwards of \$1,000. Mr. W. has a fine farm; he milks about 20 cows, and last summer made between 60 and 70 pounds of excellent butter per week. His farm is well stocked, and I was informed, by good authority, that he had cleared at least \$1,000 *per year* during the whole time he has been in the country. Mr. B. is a mechanic. In addition to the labor of his trade, he has devoted much time to agricultural pursuits, and has now an excellent farm under the highest state of cultivation; he has on his farm upwards of 100 head of cattle, 76 horses, hogs, &c. He has built him a new and spacious house, and has cleared, as the reward of his labor, upwards of \$1,500 *per annum*.

The rise and fall of the tides at the mouth of the Columbia is about 8 feet, gradually diminishing until you come to the mouth of the Wallamette, where little or no difference in the tides is perceptible. At present, or until the channel is buoyed out, and a light-house erected on Cape Disappointment, it is unsafe for vessels of greater draught of water than from 10 to 12 feet to attempt entering the Columbia between the months of November and April, on account of the prevalent westerly winds, which make heavy breakers on the bar.

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*H. A. Peirce to Hon. Lewis F. Linn.*

Boston, May 1, 1842.

Thinking it may be interesting or important to you to know some of the late operations and present plans of the British Hudson's Bay Company in the North Pacific ocean, I beg leave to present to your notice some facts in relation to the same, and which have come to my knowledge, from personal observation, or from sources entitled to the fullest credit.

All that extensive line of coast comprehending the Russian possessions on the Northwest coast of America, from Mount St. Elias south, to the latitude of 54° 40' north, (the last being the boundary line between the Rus-

sian and American territories,) together with the sole and exclusive right or privilege of frequenting all ports, bays, sounds, rivers, &c., within said territory, and establishing forts, and trading with the Indians, has been leased or granted by the Russian-American Fur Company to the British Hudson's Bay Company for the term of ten years, from January, 1842, and for which the latter are to pay, annually, 4,000 fur seal skins, or the value thereof in money, at the rate of 32 shillings each—say £6,400 sterling, or \$30,720.

In the above-named lease, the Russians have, however, reserved to themselves the island of Sitka, or New Archangel, in which place, you probably are aware, the Russians have a large settlement, the depot and headquarters of their fur trade with the Fox islands, Aleutian islands, and the continental shore westward of Mount St. Elias. All the trading establishments of the Russians lately existing at Tungrass, Shikene, and other places within said territory, leased to the Hudson's Bay Company, have, of consequence, been broken up. Thus the Hudson's Bay Company, not content with monopolizing the heretofore profitable trade of the Americans, of supplying the Russian settlements on the Northwest coast, have now completely cut them off also from all trade with the most valuable fur regions in the world.

Whether the arrangements made between the Russians and English, above alluded to, are conformable to the treaties existing between the United States on the one part, and those nations, respectively, on the other, I leave to your better knowledge to determine.

With the doings of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Puget's sound and the Columbia river, you are doubtless fully informed; those, however, lately commenced by them in California will admit of my saying a few words.

At San Francisco they have purchased a large house, as a trading establishment and a depot for merchandise; and they intend this year to have a place of the same kind at each of the principal posts in Upper California. Two vessels are building in London, intended for the same trade—that is, for the coasting trade; and, after completing their cargoes, to carry them to England. These things, with others, give every indication that it is the purpose of the Hudson's Bay Company to monopolize the whole hide and tallow trade of the coast of California, a trade which now employs more than half a million of American capital.

At the Sandwich Islands, the company have a large trading establishment, and have commenced engaging in the commerce of the country, with evident designs to monopolize it if possible, and drive off the Americans, who have heretofore been its chief creators and conductors.

I have been informed, by one of the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company, that the agricultural and commercial operations of the English, at Puget's sound, Columbia river, California, and Sandwich Islands, are carried on, not actually by the Hudson's Bay Company, but by what may be termed a branch of it—by gentlemen who are the chief members and stockholders of said company, and who have associated themselves under the firm of Pelly, Simpson, & Co., in London, and with a capital of more than \$15,000,000.

Seeing these companies, then, marching with iron footsteps to the possession of the most valuable portion of the country in the Northern Pacific, and considering, too, the immense amount of their capital, the number, enterprise, and energy of their agents, and the policy pursued by them,

great reason is there to fear that American commerce in that part of the world must soon lower its flag.

But, sir, it is to be hoped that our Government will soon do something to break up the British settlements in the Oregon Territory, and thereby destroy the source from which now emanate the most dire evils to American interests in the Western world. In the endeavor to bring about that desirable object, you have done much; and every friend to his country, every person interested in the commerce of the Pacific, must feel grateful for the valuable services rendered by you.

With respect, &c.

HENRY A. PEIRCE.

Hon. LEWIS F. LINN,  
*Senator United States, Washington.*

NEW YORK, *April 11, 1842.*

SIR: I have delayed to return the enclosed letter, with the expectation of being able to add to it some important information from Oregon; but our last despatches from Mr. Lee afford nothing which could be of use to you.

I regret that my letter is so defective; but, such as it is, you are authorized to make such use of it as you may think proper.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS E. BOND.

Hon. N. G. PENDLETON.

NEW YORK, *January 22, 1842.*

DEAR SIR: I am sorry to have been under the necessity of postponing a reply to your inquiries so long; but I have been confined to my house by indisposition until within two or three days, and, though able to write, I had nothing to write about, until I could go to the missionary room to collect it; and even now, I fear we are not possessed of any information which will be of material use to your committee.

Jason Lee, the superintendent of our Oregon mission, first visited that country, by direction of our missionary board, in 1832. He returned to this country in 1838; and in 1839 he left here with a large missionary reinforcement, which sailed from Boston, and, after touching at the Sandwich Islands, reached Oregon the following year. His first visit was effected by a journey over land across the Rocky mountains. The mission families now contain some sixty-eight persons, men, women, and children; but a considerable proportion are not of the ministry proper, and are employed in mechanical and agricultural labors, necessary to the mission.

The missionary stations are, 1, Astoria; 2, Multnomia, or Wallamette, situated on a river known by those names, which empties into the Columbia river about 94 miles above its mouth.

This station is located in the centre of the finest district in Oregon. The soil is very fertile, the surface level enough for cultivation every where, and parts of it are described as resembling the Geneva flats.

This district is said to contain a space as large as the State of New York. Many other portions of Oregon contain lands equally as good, but in no part of it is there so large a body of good land in one continuous district. In general, the territory is very hilly and broken, and the highlands steril.

The 3d station is on the Columbia river, 140 miles from its mouth. The



river is navigable by large vessels up to this place ; above this it becomes rapid and rocky.

4. Puget's sound. Here is a fine harbor, which will one day render it an important position, in a commercial point of view. It is situated on the Pacific ocean, about one hundred and forty miles north of the point where the Columbia river disembogues.

5. On the Wallamette, forty miles above its junction with the Columbia. There is a fall in the Wallamette at this point, supplying great water power, and small craft can ascend to this point.

6. A mission was contemplated, at our last advices, on the Umpqua river, which empties into the Pacific some two hundred miles south of the mouth of the Columbia.

7. Clatsop, a new station, near the mouth of the Columbia. The missionary of this place has furnished us with a sketch of a map, imperfect no doubt, but yet giving a general view of that part of the country which he has seen. That part which is laid down within the dotted lines he gives from the information he has derived from others. I send it to you ; but must beg that it may be returned, as I have no authority for sending it. Dr. White, who has been employed in the mission as our physician, speaks favorably of Parker's map of the country.

It will occur to you and to the committee, that missionaries among savages, so far from home, and at a point from which they have so few opportunities to write to their friends or to their church authorities, would not be likely to deal in statistics, further than immediately connected with the duties assigned them ; and hence, as we have not directed their attention to the country, with any political or commercial objects, we would not be likely to come into possession of much information on such subjects. They all agree in representing the Indian tribes inhabiting the country as far more degraded and destitute than those on our borders ; yet nowhere have our missionary efforts among savages been more successful. Indeed, the very misery of these people seconds the preaching and advice of the missionaries.

On the borders of the rivers the ague and fever is a great and common affliction, especially to the Indians. Whole bands of them have been exterminated by the malaria in a single season, though Dr. White represents the disease ordinarily to assume its mildest forms.

The mortality among the Indians he attributes to the absurd and destructive mode of treatment they followed until they learned better of the missionaries. The climate is very temperate, even in winter. Mr. Lee procured, in 1838, some six hundred head of cattle from California, a distance of from 750 to 800 miles. They have greatly multiplied, as it is unnecessary to provide for their subsistence in winter. They find abundant sustenance on the prairies, even in the severest seasons. The Hudson's Bay Company had previously procured cattle, and kindly lent them occasionally to the inhabitants ; but they required all the increase for the use, so that, up to the time mentioned, the inhabitants owned none.

I am sorry I can be of so little use to the committee ; but any inquiries which you may suggest I will forward to the missionaries in Oregon, who, I am sure, will readily furnish the Government with any information in their power, and which might be useful on a subsequent occasion.

I am, sir, very sincerely, yours,

THOMAS E. BOND.

Hon. Mr. Goode.